



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretary**
Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change

The Directors
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Bureau Director
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau

The Executive Director
Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **ENDORSEMENT OF INVITATION AND REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FOR THE COMMITTEE ON
CLIMATE CHANGE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 28 September 2022

In reference to the electronic mail dated 26 September 2022 from the House of Representatives, Committee on Climate Change, they will be holding a **virtual meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 9:30 AM** via zoom. The meeting will deliberate on the following bills:

1. **HBN 3136** or "AN ACT ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE HOLISTIC AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS AND THE RESOURCES THEREIN FROM RIDGE TO REEF, ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT ACTION PLAN. OTHER SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR," authored by Representative Jose Manuel F. Alba
2. **HBN 4496** or "AN ACT ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND ESTABLISHING SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION," authored by Representative Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza

3. **HBN 3303** or "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND OTHER PURPOSES," authored by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

The above-mentioned bills were previously deliberated last 13 September 2022. In this regard, we are **requesting your attendance at the virtual meeting, as well as, additional comments/recommendations** should you have not submitted, **on or before October 3, 2022, at 5 PM** in preparation for the Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting of the Committee on Climate Change. Attached herewith are as follows:

1. Invitation from the Committee on Climate Change
2. After Activity Report for the House Committee on Climate Change Regular Meeting (13 September 2022);
3. **Draft** position paper based on the consolidated comments from concerned DENR Offices, Bureaus and Agencies;
4. Comparative Matrix of the bills to be deliberated; and
5. Copies of the House Bills

For information and action, please.

ROMIROSE B. PADIN

*cc: Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Assistant Secretary for Administration and Legislative Affairs*



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

September 26, 2022

HON. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA

Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Dear Sec. Loyzaga:

We wish to inform you that the **Committee on Climate Change** of the House of Representatives will hold a **TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING** on **October 4, 2022 (Tuesday), 9:30 A.M.** via virtual conference through **Zoom** application to discuss the following measures:

1. **Integrated Coastal Management (House Bills Numbered 3136 and 4496)**
2. **National Coastal Greenbelt Program (House Bill Numbered 3303)**

In line with this, we would like to invite you or your representative to share your valuable insights and comments on the proposed legislation.

Also, as per request of TWG Chairpersons, may we ask for copies of the following to be emailed to committee.climatechange@house.gov.ph before 04 October 2022:

1. List of **DENR tenure instruments** (such as IFMA, SIFMA, foreshore lease agreements, SLUP, FGMA, etc), their salient features, and whether or not they still have holders or still being issued;
2. List of **abandoned, undeveloped, and underutilized (AUU)** fishpond which need to be reverted to status of public land.

We have attached herewith the agenda and copies of the above-stated measures for your easy reference while the Zoom meeting link can be seen below.

Should you need more information, please contact Mr. Rommel M. Reyes, Committee Secretary at 09277193534 or Ms. MeAnne Ordovez at 09154448595.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing and hearing from you at the meeting.

Very truly yours,

HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO
Chairperson

Zoom Log-in Details:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83352644133?pwd=dVBlc1lXbVpqZ0Npa0JTNjBydTRBUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 5264 4133

Passcode: 708141

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
19TH Congress
First Regular Session

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING
COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

04 October 2022, 9:30 AM
Virtual Conference through Zoom Application

AGENDA

I. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AUTHORS, GUESTS, & RESOURCE PERSONS

II. OPENING REMARKS OF THE TWG CHAIRPERSONS

III. DELIBERATION ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

1. Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)

- **House Bill No. 3136**, "AN ACT ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE HOLISTIC AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS AND THE RESOURCES THEREIN FROM RIDGE TO REEF, ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT ACTION PLAN, OTHER SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR," authored by Representative Jose Manuel F. Alba
- **House Bill No. 4496**, "AN ACT ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND ESTABLISHING SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION," authored by Representative Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza

2. National Coastal Greenbelt Program (NCGP)

- **House Bill No. 3303**, "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND OTHER PURPOSES," authored by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

IV. OTHER MATTERS

V. ADJOURNMENT

RESOURCE PERSONS:

➤ Government Agencies

1. Climate Change Commission
2. Department of Agriculture
 - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
3. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 - Biodiversity Management Bureau
 - Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
 - Land Management Bureau
 - Forest Management Bureau
4. Department of Budget and Management
5. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
 - Environmental, Land Use & Urban Planning Development Bureau (ELUPDB)
6. Department of Interior and Local Government
 - Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD)
7. Department of Public Works and Highways
8. Department of Science and Technology
 - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)
9. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
10. National Economic and Development Authority
11. Philippine Coast Guard
12. Philippine Ports Authority
13. Philippine Reclamation Authority
14. Philippine National Police – Maritime Group

➤ LGUs

- League of Cities of the Philippines
- League of Provinces of the Philippines
- League of Municipalities of the Philippines
- Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines

➤ ACADEME

- UP Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea
- UP Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology
- UP Marine Science Institute

➤ CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS/NGOs

- Aksyon Klima
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- Greenpeace Philippines
- Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities
- NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR)
- OCEANA Philippines
- Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
- RARE-Philippines
- The Climate Reality Project Philippines
- Zoological Society of London-Philippines



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE REGULAR MEETING
AFTER ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE AND TIME	13 SEPTEMBER 2022; 9:30 AM
VENUE	Via Zoom
OBJECTIVE/S	To deliberate on the legislative measures on Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and National Coastal Greenbelt Program.
DENR ATTENDEES/ PARTICIPANTS	DENR-OUFISCC Usec. Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh DENR-LLO Dir. Romirose Padin DENR-LLO Shanelle Napoles DENR-CCS Susan Nool
BACKGROUND	The Department of Environment and Natural Resources was invited to the Regular Meeting of the Committee on Climate Change of the House of Representatives on September 13, 2022, 9:30 AM via Cisco Webex.
HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the meeting last congress, the TWG recommended Consolidation ICM an NCGP bills. HBN4496 added word ecosystem because ICM is an ecosystem based framework.• Ms Armida Andres from Coastal and marine division of BMB based on pre-meeting was asked to present the overview of ICM and its implementation in the Philippines.• Question by Rep Tuazon, in relation to the size of the green belt in HBN 3136 it provides for a coastal greenbelt stretching to at least up to 1.5meters above land and 1.5 meters below whereas in the bill of Congressman Rodriguez, he provides for 100 meters. Wondering if the technical experts might be able to comment on that and establish what the scientific basis or most prudent way to classify the coastal green belt.• Resource person from DOST Dr. Primavera representing the National Academy of Science and Technology answered that it is of 100 meters distance, from the paper of McIver et al 2012 on the protective function of vegetation along coastlines from storms and typhoons. She stated that she just submitted her comments on the bill a day before such meeting.• Follow up question of Rep Tuazon: "If we are

Tayo ang kalikasan!



**AGREEMENTS/
CONCLUSION**

tackling this with a marine spatial plan or if it is included in the CLUPs, will it be per province or per island group. I was wondering what our resource persons would recommend in relation to that”.

- Dr. Primavera answered that the coastline is 36,300km and biodiversity is not only biological but also geographical. It is diverse, the slopes are different the vegetation is different and the green belts will be comprised of 2 forests. The mangroves forest are below which are intertidal and the beach forests which are above the high tide lands, supra tidal. Depending on the morphology, geography of the coastline of the island or province, the 100 meters can be all mangroves or beach forests or a combination, it is complex that is the reason that I go for the separation of the national green belt bill.
- Different resource persons from the DENR, DA, Climate Reality PH, National Academy of Science and Technology, NEDA, DOST, CCC, DPWH, OCEANA, NGO Rare Philippines gave their comments on the bills.
- Summary of agencies who positioned for standalone or consolidated measure:

Those that prefer the Standalone, are the group of Dr. Primavera and Atty. Osorio of Oceana and those who prefer a Consolidated measure was DENR, NEDA, Climate reality, DOST and DPWH

- Vice chairperson Tuazon moved for the creation of two technical working groups, one for the consolidation of HBN 3316 and 4496 and the second TWG on the national coastal greenbelt program with the caveat that they will need to ensure that both bills provide aligned provisions particularly when it comes to marine spatial planning, and getting all 20 national government agencies on board in terms of harmonizing the bills.
- 2 TWGs are created however, there should be a possible merging it if it is necessary.
- The motion is carried; there will be 2 chairmen for the TWG one for greenbelt and for ICM.
- Vice Chair Tuazon will be the chairperson of the ICM-TWG for the standalone and Vice chairperson Christopher Yap to chair the

Tayo ang kalikasan!



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WAYS AHEAD

second TWG.

- They seek further guidance through the position papers to be submitted by the resource persons to the committee as the bills need further fine tuning.

ATTACHMENTS

- Activity Photos



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PREPARED BY:

ANGÉLIQUE PEARL V. MIRANDA
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OFFICE

APPROVED BY:

ROMIROSE B. PADIN
DIRECTOR
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OFFICE

Tayo ang kalikasan!



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*DRAFT CONSOLIDATED COMMENTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY
FOR FINANCE, INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, LEGAL AFFAIRS
SERVICE, BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU, FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU,
AND ECOSYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUREAU*

POSITION PAPER

House Bills on Integrated Coastal and Ecosystems Management (ICEM)
[HB No. 3136, HB No. 4496]
and National Coastal Greenbelt Program (NCGP) [HB No. 3303]

The vulnerability of the Philippines is expected to increase as a result of climate change. The interaction of multiple stressors affects the coastal and marine resources and the communities which depend on them. An increase in the intensity of climatic extremes such as storms, coupled with the effects of human activities could affect the sustainability of the coastal communities and marine resources. The government, both national and local, need strategies to enable them to manage current stressors and the confounding impacts of a changing climate to conserve, protect and restore coastal habitats and ensure the welfare of the coastal communities and households.

The above-mentioned legislative measures have the support of the Department as the House Bills seek to ensure the sustainable development of coastal and marine environment and resources through the establishment of an institutional legal framework for cooperative management and intersectoral coordination, planning, and reporting mainstreamed both at the local and national levels.

Further, the Department supports the Bills as it recognizes the impacts of land-based activities on our coastal areas and their surrounding communities. The prioritization of the bills shall strengthen the connectivity of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems and ensure that management efforts consider this relationship.

In general, we pose no objection to the intents and purposes of said Bills. However, here are some comments/recommendations in support of the objective of the said Bills:

ON BILLS RE: ICM

HBN 3136 on ICM is a significant strategy as it aims to achieve balancing the utilization and protection of our coastal resources. An integrated approach on the management of the coastal ecosystem and marine resources will promote sustainability and policy coherence among agencies related to coastal protection and management. Also, it brings together the relevant parties into a committee which includes the DENR on biodiversity protection, environment quality restoration, land use planning, foreshore mining, DA on fisheries and other aquatic resources, and the DILG on permitting and planning.

ICM in the last Congress was refined and merged into one mother bill using HBN 3136. Another point of discussion during the meetings is the merging of the NCGP Bill with ICM Bill since ICM encompasses all the ecosystems including the greenbelt (Seagrass, Mangroves, Beach Forest).

The current versions of the proposed ICM Bill ensures the sustainable management of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources by looking at the interconnectivity of ecosystems from the watersheds down to the coastal and marine areas. It adopts ICM as a

framework for regulating different human activities and rehabilitating, with due consideration to ecological connectivity and their impact on social and ecological systems.

The framework shall support the country's achievement of sustainable development, food security, transition to a sustainable livelihood, poverty alleviation, and mitigating against vulnerability to climate change and risk reduction, while respecting the traditional resource rights of indigenous peoples, and gender equality.

Through the proposed Bills, the National ICM Framework shall be mainstreamed to the LGU's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). This new direction of ICM ensures the LGU's involvement in the process as well as their adherence to said plan for sustainability. The ICM principles and elements promote the application of best practices which include sustainable fisheries and conservation of living resources, and protection and rehabilitation of coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, estuaries, and other habitats, particularly through the establishment of marine protected areas, nature reserves, and sanctuaries.

This Department supports the new direction of mainstreaming the objectives of ICM to the CUP and CDPs of LGUs. This can fully enforce the recently approved DENR BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2022-02 which was developed in consultation and collaboration with national agencies such as DILG, DHSUD, NEDA, and Civil Society Organizations such as PEMSEA, GIZ, and Rare-Philippines.

However, considering the vulnerabilities of the coastal and marine ecosystem, it is proposed that provisions that will enhance the resilience and adaptive capacities of the ecosystem and the coastal communities be included, as follows:

1. Under the provision on National Coordinating Committee, please consider the following suggestions:
 - a. For its composition, it is suggested to include one representative from associations/cooperatives of fisher folk from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.
 - b. For its powers and functions, it is recommended for the Committee to also ensure that the integrated management strategies formulated under ICM are responsive to the multiple users and uses of coastal resource systems.
2. Under the provision on National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan, it is suggested to incorporate the said plan into the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) being developed by LGUs.
3. It is suggested that there be an establishment of the National Geospatial Database on Coastal Resources which will serve as a platform for the planning and implementation of integrated strategies for inter-agency and multi-sectoral collaboration.
4. It is also recommended that there be an establishment of the Natural Capital Accounting system including the valuation of coastal and marine resources and the ecosystem services that they provide. Likewise, the costs resulting from unsustainable economic activities, over-exploitation of natural resources, loss of habitats and biodiversity, and environmental degradation have to be analyzed since these are not explicitly measured in the national income accounts.
5. ICM as a vehicle to promote the Blue Economy or the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem. Hence, provisions must be incorporated regarding the formulation of policies, plans, and programs that will support:
 - a. Creation of Green Jobs or nature-based jobs, such as sustainable aquaculture, ecotourism, restoration of coastal habitats, management of protected areas;
 - b. Promotion of Sustainable Tourism (e.g. zero carbon resorts, green fins program)
 - c. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (i.e. establishment of post-harvest facilities, maintaining carrying capacity of fishery resources, adaptive aquaculture)

- d. Promotion of Marine Renewable Energy (e.g. solar farms in coastal areas, R&D projects on ocean energy)
 - e. Marine Biotechnology (production of potential high-value pharmaceutical products);
 - f. Establishment of Sustainable Ports (green port, shore reception facilities).
6. We recommend the adoption of Nature-based solutions such as Habitat Restoration and Management (e.g. establishment of marine sanctuaries and no-take zones, biodiversity financing). We further recommend the adoption of adaptive management to consider new threats and emerging issues arising from changes in socioeconomic, technological, and ecological landscape is critical to address the impact of climate change.
 7. Management of Pollution in the coastal areas as a built-in component of ICM. Solid waste management, particularly, on marine litter should be expressed as an indispensable role of the government, the communities, and other stakeholders. Tools and technologies for an enhanced environmental monitoring system in coastal areas should be developed and adopted.
 8. We recommend the development of a Marine Spatial Planning Tool which can bring together multiple users of the ocean – including energy, industry, government, conservation, and recreation – to make informed and coordinated decisions about how to use marine resources sustainably.
 9. On the institutional mechanism, it is recommended that HBN 3136 provides the enabling committee and cooperative environment between the various agencies. It has to clarify whether the National Coordinating Committee to be established under the bill will have absolute jurisdiction over LGU decisions such as when coastal greenbelts are designated. The ICM Committee has important tasks of monitoring, assessment of coastal resources, and research on ICM but does not provide any additional funding for such work.
 10. Mobilization of sustainable financing mechanisms for ICM from public and private sectors, and funding institutions need to be highlighted as well in the proposed legislative measures on ICM.
 11. It is suggested to use the words "shall" or "may" instead of "will" in Sections 14, 18, 29, and 34 of HBN 3136 if the creation of an obligation or authorization is the intent of the drafters.

Applying the plain and ordinary meaning of the word, " will", as used as an auxiliary verb, may mean: 1) used to express futurity, 2) used to express desire, choice, willingness, consent, or in negative constructions refusal, 3) used to express a command, exhortation, or injunction, 4) used to express frequent, customary, or habitual action or natural tendency or disposition, 5) used to express probability and often equivalent to the simple verb, 6) used to express inevitability, 7) used to express capability or sufficiency. The use of the word "will" does not create an obligation that is mandatory such as with the word "shall", or an authorization that is permissive such as with the word "may". Thus, the use of the words "shall" or "may" is recommended if the creation of an obligation or authorization is the intent of the drafters.

12. We also move to clarify whether the "PENRO" referred to in Section 14 in HBN 3136 is the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, or the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Officer.

Section 6 of Executive Order 192, s. 1987, Providing for the Reorganization of the Department of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources, renaming it as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and for other Purposes, provides that *"the Department shall consist of the Department proper, the Staff offices, the Staff bureaus, and the regional/provincial/community natural resources offices."*

Section 484 of the Local Government Code provides that *"[t]he appointment of the environment and natural resources officer is optional for provincial, city, and municipal governments."* The legislature may consider assigning Provincial Development Council (DC) secretariat duties to the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Officer considering that the PC is headed by the governor.

13. We also like to be clarified on the rank of the permanent and authorized representatives of the National Coordinating Committee (NC) *ex-officio* members under Sec. 5 of HBN 3136. Considering that the *ex officio* members are Secretaries, the highest rank of official that they can designate as permanent representatives is an Undersecretary. Thus, the bill empowers the permanent representatives, who themselves are undersecretaries, to designate authorized representatives *"whose ranks shall in no case be lower than the undersecretary"*, over whom the permanent representative has no power of supervision or control.
14. It is recommended to reconcile the apparent inconsistency in the number of months provided for the formulation, adoption, institutionalization, and amendment of the National ICM Framework under Sec. 8, and for the finalization of the National ICM Framework under Sec. 9. Sec. 8 provides for six months, while Sec. 9 provides for 9 months.
15. We would also like to be clarified whether it is the ICM Plan at the provincial level, and/or the implementation and coordination, which is to be reviewed and approved by the NCC under Sec. 11. In the same manner, clarify whether it is the respective development plans, land use plans, and other relevant plans, and/ or the implementation and coordination, which is it to be reviewed by the NC under Sec. 11.
16. It is recommended to revise the title of Sec. 41. "Non-impairment Clause". This Art. III, Sec. 10 of the 1987 Constitution which reads: "Sec. 10. No law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be passed." In *Goldenway Merchandising Corporation*, the Supreme Court referred to this as the non-impairment clause, and held that *"The purpose of the non-impairment clause of the Constitution is to safeguard the integrity of contracts against unwarranted interference by the State."* Further, Sec. 41 may be done away with considering that Sec. 32 provides that *"[i]n addition to the acts and omissions prohibited under existing environmental laws, the following shall constitute prohibited acts"*. Moreover, in *Ada vs. Virola*, the Supreme Court held that:

A single act may offend against two (or more) entirely distinct and unrelated provisions of law, and if one provision of law requires proof of an additional fact or element while the other does not, an

acquittal or conviction or a dismissal of the information under one does not bar prosecution under the other. 4 In other words, where two different laws (or articles of the same Code) define two crimes, prior jeopardy as to one of them is no obstacle to a prosecution of the other, although both offenses arise from the same facts, if each crime involves some important act which is not an essential element of the other.

17. We observe that HBN 3316 is more comprehensive than HBNs 4496 and 3303 in terms of scope, ridge to reef, including coastal greenbelts, beach forest, mangrove and, wetlands.
18. We suggest for the provisions on the NCC be cleared as there is uncertainty as to the relevance of the National Coast Watch Council (NCWC) chaired by the Executive Secretary since it has a similar composition to the proposed National Coordinating Committee (NCC).
19. We recommend making necessary adjustments in the explanatory note as it is not yet consistent with the latest version of the ICM Bill. For example, it still refers to ICEM and not ICM and, the co-chairs of the proposed NCC are also not adjusted.
20. It is also recommended that in addition to the existing National Coordinating Committee on ICM, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as well as the National Commission on Women (NCW) be made additional members to guide us through a provision on the ICM mainstreaming processes to CLUP (when and where necessary), infrastructure developments and in ensuring that the rights of women are integrated, respectively.
21. On Section 6 of HBN 4496 on National Government Responsibilities, it is suggested to indicate the specific functions of the national government agencies in the implementation of the ICEM.
22. It is suggested that a provision re: Implementing Rules and Regulations be provided in HBN 4496.

ON BILLS RE: NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT ACT

The DENR further supports the proposed bill on National Coastal Greenbelt Program for the protection of coastal biodiversity and habitat. The adoption of green-gray infrastructure in the conservation of nature and provision of services to communities shall be carefully designed to also provide natural benefits such as clean air or reliable flows of clean water. However, here are some comments/recommendations to further enhance the objective of this bill.

1. It is suggested that the enforcement aspect of HBN 3303 with HBN 3136 be integrated. The DENR and DA will be in the best position to carry out the NCGAP. Moreover, similar to Protected Areas and Water Quality Management Areas (WQMA), the NCGAP will only be fully implemented if a local body is established that will oversee all activities of established Coastal Greenbelt areas. This group should be mandated to include enforcement functions as well as the ability to collect fees to permitted users within Coastal Greenbelt Areas.
2. It is suggested to include the concerned agency involved in the demolition of illegal structures among the key implementing agencies considering that the operational plan includes the removal of illegal structures (such as breakwaters, permanent residential/commercial structures, and the like), in the identified priority coastal greenbelts.

3. It is also recommended that the National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan (NCGAP) be incorporated into the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) being developed by LGUs.
4. We note that, most models have only been validated with mild conditions, such as low water levels and wave heights, thus their predictive capacity becomes less under extreme conditions. Model analyses with different types of mangroves in SWAN showed that mangrove belts of 100 meters only reduce waves significantly when vegetation is dense and has high biomass. For forests with less biomass per square meter, a belt with a width between 500-900 meters is needed to obtain a significant reduction of incoming waves (Waves at toe of levee smaller than 0.2 meters.)” (Van Wesenbeeck, 2017).
5. We agree with what was discussed during the TWG meetings in the last Congress, to merge the ICM Bill and the NGCP Bill since the ICM bill already covers relevant provisions of the NGCP bill, particularly in the management and protection of coastal greenbelt ecosystems such as beach forest, mangroves, and seagrasses.

The proposed legislative measures are very timely and worth prioritizing as we strive for Healthy Ocean, Healthy People towards Blue Economy, and Sustainable Development. The DENR wishes to provide its utmost support for further refinement and revision of the bill up to its enactment.

Summary/ Comparison of Salient Features

<p>HBN 3136</p> <p>By Rep. Jose Manuel F. Alba</p> <p>An Act Adopting Integrated Coastal Management as a National Strategy For the Holistic and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Related Ecosystems and The Resources Therein From Ridge to Reef, Establishing the National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan, Other Supporting Mechanisms for Implementation, And Providing Funds Therefor</p> <p>“Integrated Coastal Management Act”</p>	<p>HBN 4496</p> <p>By Rep. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza</p> <p>An Act Adopting Integrated Coastal Management As a National Strategy to Ensure the Sustainable Development of the Country’s Coastal and Marine Environment and Establishing Supporting Mechanisms for Its Implementation</p> <p>“Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management Act of 2022”</p>	<p>HBN 3303</p> <p>By Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez</p> <p>An Act Establishing the National Coastal Greenbelt Program, Providing Funds Therefor, and Other Purposes</p> <p>“National Coastal Greenbelt Act”</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As to scope, it shall be implemented in all LGUs addressing inter linkages among ecosystems from ridge-to-reef, by all relevant government structures at the national and local levels in consultation and partnership with all stakeholders through participatory governance (Sec. 3) • There shall be an establishment of a National Coordinating Committee (NCC) on ICM, to coordinate the review and implementation of the National ICM Framework (Sec. 5) • The NCC shall be composed of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DENR Secretary as Chairperson 2. DA Secretary as Co-Chairperson 3. DOST Secretary as Vice Chairperson 4. Climate Change Commission VC as Vice Chairperson 5. DILG Secretary 6. NEDA Secretary 7. Specialist in ICM from the academe 8. NGO dealing with coastal management or fisheries 9. Private Sector Representative 10. Other organization as may deem necessary (Sec. 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As to scope, it shall be implemented in all coastal and marine areas, addressing inter-linkages among associated watersheds, estuaries, wetlands, and coastal seas, by all relevant national and local agencies (Sec. 3) • A National Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management (ICEM) Program shall be developed by the DENR (Sec. 4) • ICEM Programs shall apply best practices but not limited to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coastal and marine use zonation as management tool; 2. Sustainable fisheries and conservation of living resources 3. Protection and rehabilitation of coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, estuaries and other habitats, particularly through implementation of MPAs, nature reserves and sanctuaries; 4. Development of upland, watershed, catchment areas and basin wide management approaches; 5. Integrated waste management, including sewage, and solid, hazardous, toxic and other wastes by major sources; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate Change Commission shall identify all NGAs responsible for foreshore management, mangrove and beach forest protection and utilization, coastal land and sea-use planning, coastal tourism development, social welfare of coastal communities, and other relevant mandates, to prepare an integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan (NCGAP) (Sec. 4) • Key implementing agencies include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Change Commission – responsible for congregation of relevant government agencies, facilitation of public participation in the preparation of NCGAP and preparation of integrated report; 2. DENR – responsible for special representation, assessment of priority area, designation of priority areas for coastal greenbelts, operational plan for the rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of designated priority coastal greenbelts, and provide the CCC all relevant information to aid in the monitoring and evaluation of the NCGAP;

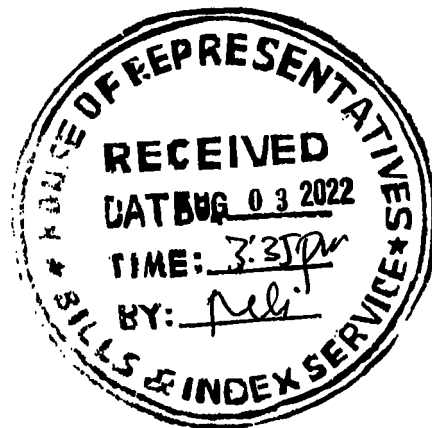
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DA and DENR shall provide Secretariat support to the NCC and shall create a composite team among their bureaus and offices. The DENR shall head the secretariat (Sec. 7) • Powers of the NCC include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulate, adopt, institutionalize, and amend if necessary, the National ICM Framework 2. Identify coastal and marine and other resources shared by 2 or more LGUs 3. Undertake baseline and periodic assessment and reporting of the state of coastal and marine environment and natural resources 4. Conduct capacity building programs 5. Develop guidelines for provinces sharing the same resources and influence for the integrated management 6. Ensure documentation, promotion and dissemination of learnings 7. Facilitate the establishment of integrated date and monitoring systems using innovative technologies 8. Pursue mobilization of sustainable financing mechanisms for ICM 9. Ensure adaptive management to consider new threats and emerging issues arising from changes in socioeconomic and technological landscape 10. Recommend the issuance or passage of policies or legislations (Sec. 8) • The Regional Development Councils shall mainstream ICM in the formulation of Regional Development Plans and Priority Investment Programs (Sec. 10) • Provincial Development Council shall be responsible for the formulation of ICM plan at the Provincial level (Sec. 11) • Provincial Development Council shall include the following members: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Integrated management of port safety, health, security and environmental protection; and 7. Involvement of the private sector/business sector as a partner in ICEM (Sec. 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Government Responsibilities: DA, DILG, DOST, DOF, DOT, DOH, DOE, DOF, DOST, DND, NEDA, DSWD, DOLE, DOJ – identify, prepare, and provide policy guidance, and technical resource assistance to the DENR (Sec. 6) • Supporting mechanisms and activities include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ICEM Education 2. ICEM Training Program for LGUs, DENR and DILG 3. Environmental and Natural Resource Accounting and Valuation for ICEM Planning 4. Coastal and Marine Environmental Information Management System which the DENR shall oversee (Sec. 9) • The DENR shall prepare and submit an annual progress report on the National ICEM Program to the President; LGUs shall submit to the DENR (Sec. 10) • All relevant NGAs and LGUs shall allocate adequate funds for the development and implementation of ICEM program (Sec. 11) • NGAs may source local and international grants and donations in support of ICEM and LGUs may be allowed to raise revenues and secure funds for ICEM (Sec 12) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. BFAR – shall coordinate with DENR for operational plan for the reversion of all abandoned fishponds to mangrove; 4. DILG – shall provide technical guidance for provinces, cities and municipalities to develop Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Plans (Sec. 5) • CCC shall convene a National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) which shall be composed of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CCC Technical Representative 2. DENR Technical Representative 3. BFAR Technical Representative 4. Two experts in mangroves and beach forest ecosystems 5. NGO representative (Sec. 6) • Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan shall be prepared by each coastal municipality and city (Sec. 7) • Enforcement actions include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obstruction of the DENR in the process of illegal structures and BFAR in the process of reversion of abandoned fishponds – fine of P50k/day that the agency is prevented from performing its functions; and 2. Building of structures within identified coastal greenbelts without permit from DENR or DA through BFAR – fine of P50k/day until the obstruction is removed • The Key Implementing Agencies shall report to Congress on their progress in meeting the quantitative and qualitative targets under Action Plan for each fiscal year.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairperson of the Environment Committee of Sanggunian Panlalawigan 2. Provincial Fisheries Office/ Provincial Agriculturist 3. Provincial Tourism Office 4. DENR PENRO 5. Board Member of MPA Networks 6. DHSUD Regional Office 7. Private Sector (Sec. 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City or Municipal Council shall be established for the integration of national ICM strategies in a municipal/ city level (Sec. 13) • The City/Municipal Council shall include the following members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairperson of the Environment Committee of Sanggunian Panlungsod or Bayan 2. City/Municipal Fisheries Office/ Provincial Agriculturist 3. City/Municipal Tourism Office 4. Private Sector (Sec. 13) • The councils may call upon assistance from LGUs (Sec. 17) • The NCC shall develop a national incentive and recognition system to encourage or motivate LGUs (Sec. 20) • The NCC shall establish a National Scientific Advisory Group to ensure that ICM interventions have sound scientific basis (Sec. 21) • All concerned NGAs shall support the implementation of the National ICM Framework and provide policy guidance and technical resource assistance to the DENR, development councils and LGUs (Sec. 22) • The NCC shall identify all NGAs responsible for foreshore management, mangrove and beach forest protection and utilization, coastal land and sea-use planning, coastal tourism development, social welfare of 		
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<p>coastal communities, and other relevant mandates, to prepare an integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan (NCGAP) (Sec. 28)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In designating areas for coastal greenbelts, landscape types will be classified into natural, rural and urban areas including mangrove areas (Sec. 29) • The NCC shall take the lead in the implementation of NCGAP with the appropriation provided by DHSUD (Sec. 30) • Each coastal municipality and city in the identified priority coastal greenbelt areas shall prepare a Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan (LCGAP) (Sec. 31) • Prohibited acts include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obstruction of the DENR in the removal of illegal structures and BFAR in the process of reversion of abandoned fishponds – fine of P50k/day that the agency is prevented from performing its functions; 2. Building of structures within identified coastal greenbelts without permit from DENR or DA through BFAR – fine of P50k/day until the obstruction is removed 3. Any violation of the provisions of this Act – fine of P50k (Sec. 32) • All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to the NCC shall be exempted from donor's tax and subjected to deduction of gross income for computing the taxable income of the donor (Sec. 35) 		
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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3136**

Introduced by Hon. Jose Manuel F. Alba

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was based on Executive Order No. 533 which was signed by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on June 6, 2006. The concept of Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management (ICEM) arose out of the need to integrate the efforts from "ridge to reef," or from the uplands to the lowlands, to protect coastal and marine resources from which as much as 60 percent of our GDP is derived. It is an institutional legal framework to coordinate the efforts of various agencies and communities to plan and work together in resolving conflicts arising from the use of resources from forest ridges to coastal areas and ultimately, in marine waters.

There are four national government agencies that have major administrative role in managing the country's coastal and marine resources. These are the DENR, Department of Agriculture — Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). The DENR, particularly the Coastal and Marine Management Office (CMMO), has the overall mandate to coordinate national efforts for environmental protection and management of marine and coastal environments. The DA-BFAR has primary responsibility over the conservation and proper utilization of fishery resources. The DILG-PNP, on the other hand, has the general responsibility over enforcement of criminal laws in coastal waters, including illegal fishing activities while the DOTC-PCG's function is limited to safety of life at sea and the prevention and control of marine pollution.

Overall, there are more than twenty other government agencies with various policy, regulatory, planning, research, and development functions in the coastal and marine environment.

ICEM will serve as a holistic (covers upland to marine areas) and ecological (transcend political boundaries for certain ecosystems] planning tool that will facilitate the management of coastal and marine resources. It is a system for cooperative management and intersectoral coordination, planning, and reporting mainstreamed at the local and national levels to address complex activities such as deforestation, mining, fishing, shipping, public health, and recreation.

ICEM will not mean the creation of another agency. The bill only seeks to establish a coordinative body named the National Coordinating Committee on ICEM, to coordinate the review and implementation of the National ICEM Framework. It will be composed of the Secretaries of the DENR as Chairman, secretaries of DA and DILG as Vice Chairpersons, NEDA Director General, and representatives from the academe, NGOs dealing with coastal management or fisheries private sector, fisherfolk organizations or cooperatives, and the Philippine Association of Marine Sciences (PAMS)

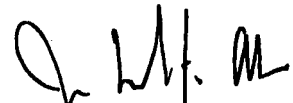
At the local level, ICEM will utilize the existing local development councils which will also ensure the fact that ICEM will now be included and eventually mainstreamed in the national economic planning.

ICEM is an internationally recognized coastal and marine planning tool which produced successful pilot areas such as Bataan, Guimaras, Cavite, and Batangas City.

ICEM is aimed at attaining two objectives: first, is to shift the focus of the country's development planning from terrestrial to coastal and marine to reflect the significant contribution of such areas to the national GDP; second, is to establish an ecological approach in managing the country's coastal and marine environment to promote sustainable development, achieve food security, and to reduce the country's vulnerability to impacts of Climate Change.

It must also be emphasized that this bill was already deliberated upon by relevant government agencies and civil society groups during the 18th Congress.

Based on the foregoing reasons, I would like to work for the passage of the subject bill into law.



JOSE MANUEL F. ALBA
Representative, 1st District, Bukidnon

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3136**

Introduced by Hon. Jose Manuel F. Alba

AN ACT
ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY
FOR THE HOLISTIC AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND
RELATED ECOSYSTEMS AND THE RESOURCES THEREIN FROM RIDGE TO
REEF, ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT ACTION PLAN,
OTHER SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Integrated Coastal Management Act.”

SEC. 2. *Policy Statement.* – It shall be the policy of the State to ensure the sustainable management of the country’s coastal and marine environment and resources by looking at the interconnectivity of ecosystems from the watersheds to the coastal and marine areas. Towards this end, it shall adopt integrated coastal management, hereinafter referred to as ICM, as a framework in regulating different human activities, restoring or rehabilitating, and ensuring a multi-stakeholder and ridge-to-reef approach to ecosystem management, with due consideration to ecological connectivity and their impact on social and ecological systems. The framework shall support the country’s achievement of sustainable development, food security, just transition to sustainable livelihood, poverty alleviation, and its vulnerability and risk reduction, while respecting the traditional resource rights of indigenous peoples and gender equality.

SEC. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* – Integrated Coastal Management shall be implemented in all local government units (LGUs) addressing the inter linkages among ecosystems from ridge-to-reef, by all relevant government structures at the national and local levels in consultation and partnership with all stakeholders through participatory governance.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- (a) *Adaptation* refers to the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
- (b) *Beach Forest* refers to a narrow strip of woodland along the sandy and gravelly beaches of the seacoast dominated by *terminalia catappa*, *casuarina equisetifolia*, *barringtonia asiatica*, *sonneratia caseolaris*, *acacia farnesiana*, and *erythrina orientalis*.
- (c) *Biological Diversity or Biodiversity* refers to the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part. Biodiversity consists of variety of species, their genetic make-up, and the communities to which they belong.
- (d) *Climate Change* refers to changes in the mean and/or variability of climate properties that persist for an extended period typically decades or longer, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.
- (e) *Coastal Area or 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, brackish water ponds, nipa swamps, estuarine rivers, sandy beaches and other areas within a seaward limit of 200 meters isobath to include coral reefs, algal flats, seagrass beds and other soft-bottom areas.
- (f) *Coastal Greenbelts* refers to a strip of natural or artificially created coastal vegetation including mangroves, beach forest, phytoplankton and seagrasses, stretching at least up to 1.5 meters above towards land and up to 1.5 meters below towards the ocean from mean sea level, designed to prevent coastal erosion, and mitigate the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property.
- (g) *Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP)* refers to a document that pertains to the multi-sectoral plan formulated at the city or municipal level, which embodies the vision, sectoral goals, objectives, development strategies and policies within the term of LGU officials and the medium-term.
- (h) *Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)* refers to the document formulated by the cities and municipalities in consultation with its stakeholders, that defines or provides guidelines on the allocation, utilization, development and management of all lands within a given territory or jurisdiction according to the inherent qualities of the land itself and supportive economic, demographic, socio-cultural and environmental objectives as defined in Republic Act No.

11201, otherwise known as the "Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act".

- (i) *Designated Area for Coastal Greenbelts* refers to site specific stretch of vegetation in areas with abandoned fishponds requiring the reversion thereof to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species. Designated areas with illegal structures, such as breakwaters, permanent residential or commercial structures, and the like, require removal of such structures.
- (j) *Disaster Risk Reduction* refers to the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment; and improved preparedness for adverse events.
- (k) *Ecosystems Services* refer to the benefits people obtain from the ecosystems such as:
 - 1) provisioning which refers to the services that provide food, water, timber, and fiber;
 - 2) regulating which refers to the services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality;
 - 3) cultural which refers to the services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and
 - 4) supporting which refers to the essential services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling.
- (l) *Holistic and Sustainable Management* refers to the management of all components of the ecosystem and the services it provides in a way at a rate that maintains and enhances its current state and resilience, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs of the aspirations of present and future generations. This approach involves all stakeholders in collaborative decision-making, including scientists, national and local government, private sector, local residents, and the public towards the protection, conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the ecosystem and the resources therein.
- (m) *Integrated Coastal Management* refers to a natural resource and environmental ecosystem-based management framework which employs an integrative, holistic management approach and an interactive planning process in addressing the complex management issues of the coastal area, and the major goal of which is to attain sustainable coastal development, including the maintenance of the functional integrity of ecosystems through effective coastal and ocean governance.
- (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 mainly of *rhizophora*, *bruguiera*, *ceriops*, *avicennia*, and *aegiceras*.
- (o) *Municipal waters* refer not only to streams, lakes, inland bodies of water, and tidal waters within the municipality which are not included within the protected areas as defined under R.A.

No.11038, otherwise known as the “Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act 2of 2018”, public forest, timber lands, forest reserves, or fishery reserves, but also marine waters included between two (2) lines drawn perpendicular to the general coastline from points where the boundary lines of the municipality touch the sea at low tide and a third line parallel with the general coastline including offshore islands and fifteen (15) kilometers from such coastline. Where two (2) municipalities are so situated on opposite shores and when with less than thirty (30) kilometers of marine waters between them, the third line shall be equally distant from opposite shore of the respective municipalities.

- (p) *Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP)* refers to the plan document formulated at the provincial level that merges the traditionally separate provincial physical framework plan and provincial development plan to address the disconnect between spatial and sectoral factors and between medium and long-term concerns. it contains the long-term vision of the province, and identifies development goals, strategies, objectives or targets and corresponding Programs, Projects and Activities (PPAs) which serve as primary inputs to provincial investment programming and subsequent budgeting and plan implementation.
- (q) *State of the Coasts Reporting System* refers to an assessment tool for LGUs to be used in measuring the progress and benefits of ICM implementation. It allows the LGUs to document and measure the effectiveness and impacts of policy and management interventions in support of sustainable coastal development and evaluate progress towards local, national, and international targets for sustainable development.
- (r) *Watershed* refers to a land area drained by a stream or fixed body of water and its tributaries having a common outlet for surface run-off. it is topographically delineated area of land form which rainwater can drain as surface run-off, *via* a specific stream or river system to a common outlet point. It encompasses ridge to reef areas and may include the uplands, lowlands, and coastal areas.
- (s) *Wetlands* refer to a wide variety of inland habitats such as marshes, peatlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as saltmarshes, mangroves, intertidal mudflats and seagrass beds, and also coral reefs and other marine areas no deeper than six (6) meters at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as dams, reservoirs, rice paddies and wastewater treatment ponds and lagoons.

CHAPTER II INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SEC. 5. *National Coordinating Committee on ICM.* – There is hereby established a National Coordinating Committee on ICM, hereinafter referred to as the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), to coordinate the review and implementation of the National ICM Framework.

The NCC shall be composed of the following members:

- (a) the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) who shall act as Chairperson;
- (b) the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) as Co-chairperson;

- (c) the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as Vice Chairperson;
- (d) the Vice Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) as Vice Chairperson;
- (e) the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- (f) the Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
- (g) a representative from the academe who specializes in ICM;
- (h) a representative from non-government organizations dealing with coastal management or fisheries;
- (i) a representative from the private sector; and
- (j) a representative from any other organizations not mentioned above as the NCC may deem necessary.

The designated permanent representatives shall be chosen in a process to be determined in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

The *ex-officio* members of the Committee may designate their permanent representatives to the NCC: *Provided* That, the permanent representatives may designate their authorized representatives whose ranks shall in no case be lower than the undersecretary and whose acts shall be considered as that of the permanent representatives: *Provided* however, That the duly authorized representatives have no voting right unless authorized in writing.

The representatives from the academe, civil society, and other sectors shall possess experience and training in disciplines related to climate change, disaster risk reduction, natural resource management, or coastal management which shall be appointed by the NCC based on the suggestions provided by the member agencies. They shall serve as members of the NCC until expiration or termination of their term of office in such capacities subject for 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 be for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

SEC. 6. Meetings of the National Coordinating Committee. – The NCC shall meet once every three (3) months, or as often as may be deemed necessary.

SEC. 7. Secretariat. – The DA and DENR shall provide Secretariat support to the NCC and shall create a composite team among their bureaus and offices. The DENR shall head the Secretariat which shall have an administrative control and supervision: *Provided* That, the DA shall provide the necessary complementary manpower as may be determined by the NCC.

SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the National Coordinating Committee on ICM. – The NCC shall exercise and perform the following powers and functions:

- (a) formulate, adopt, institutionalize, and amend, if necessary, the National ICM Framework, in consultation with other concerned agencies, sectors, and stakeholders, within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act;
- (b) identify coastal and marine and other resources shared by two or more LGUs, recommend and provide guidance on mainstreaming ICM into existing local plans and programs through their respective regional or provincial development councils, and assist the relevant authorities in resolving conflicts arising from ICM between or among LGUs;
- (c) undertake baseline and periodic assessment and reporting of the state of coastal and marine environment and natural resources and the level of socioeconomic development of the adjacent communities, governance or management interventions, and relevant infrastructures in place, among others;
- (d) conduct capacity building programs and activities for national government, LGUs, and stakeholders, and pursue information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns on ICM, and develop guidelines for mainstreaming the ICM into the development planning and investment programming processes of local governments;
- (e) develop guidelines for provinces sharing the same resources and influence for the integrated management, protection, conservation, and restoration of the shared coastal and marine ecosystems, and reduce or eliminate the impacts of activities originating from upstream and downstream sources;
- (f) ensure documentation, promotion, and dissemination of learnings and best practices on ICM implementation;
- (g) facilitate the establishment of integrated data and monitoring systems using innovative technologies and develop a national ICM dashboard as the repository of data on ICM;
- (h) pursue the mobilization of sustainable financing mechanisms for ICM from both public and private sectors;
- (i) ensure adaptive management to consider new threats and emerging issues arising from changes in socioeconomic and technological landscape; and
- (j) recommend the issuance or passage of policies or legislations to the appropriate agency or the legislature.

SEC. 9. *Elements of the National ICM Framework.* –The implementation of ICM-responsive plans shall take into account the following elements in line with the ICM principles:

- (a) an inter-agency, inter-LGU alliances, multi-sectoral mechanism to coordinate the efforts of different agencies, sectors, and administrative levels;
- (b) peoples' participation in the formulation and implementation of the National ICM Framework while upholding and respecting their right to a balanced and healthful ecology, especially those of the poorest communities and the most vulnerable to climate change and other hazards;

- (c) coastal strategies and action plans that provide a long-term vision and strategy for sustainable development of the coastal areas; and a fixed-term program of actions specifying responsible agencies or institutions for addressing priority issues and concerns including improving existing endeavors to protect marine protected areas and other protected areas on or near coastal zones, as defined under R.A. No. 11038;
- (d) public awareness programs to increase the level of understanding of and appreciation for the coastal and marine resources of the area; and to promote a shared responsibility among stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the National ICM Framework;
- (e) mainstreaming the National ICM Framework into the national and local government planning and socio-economic development programs; and allocation of adequate financial and human resources for its implementation;
- (f) capacity building programs to enhance required human resource skills, scientific input to policy and planning processes; and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with adopted rules and regulations;
- (g) integrated environmental monitoring for the purpose of measuring, evaluating, and reporting the status, progress, and impacts of management programs against established sustainable development indicators and for use in decision-making, public awareness, and performance evaluation;
- (h) investment opportunities and sustainable financing mechanisms for environmental protection and improvement; resource conservation; and ecosystem based adaptation and other nature based solutions;
- (i) disaster risk reduction and management as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation programs, and vulnerability and risk assessment;
- (j) knowledge management, research, and development programs in such areas as carrying capacity, limits to acceptable change, and enhancement of the analytical and predictive value of scenarios for protecting sustainable futures; and
- (k) development of a national coastal greenbelt action plan for the protection of biodiversity and coastal areas.

The National ICM Framework shall provide direction, support, and guidance to the LGUs and shall adhere to the principles of sustainable development; ecosystem-based management that focuses on the interconnectivity of ecosystems and maintaining their health and resiliency to deliver the goods and services; policy and functional integration, coordination, and adaptive management that guide the ICM practice. The NCC shall finalize the National ICM Framework within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Coordination of ICM Programs, Plans, and Activities at the Regional Level*

– The Regional Development Councils shall mainstream ICM in the formulation of Regional

Development Plans and Priority Investment Programs, among other related documents which shall be reviewed and approved by the NCC.

SEC. 11. *Coordination of ICM Programs, Plans, and Activities at the Provincial Level.* – The Provincial Development Council (PDC) established under Section 107 (c) of R.A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, shall be responsible for the formulation of the ICM plan at the Provincial level, including the implementation and coordination necessary therefor which shall be reviewed and approved by the NCC.

In addition to its members, the following offices and sector shall be represented thereto for the purpose of facilitating the mainstreaming of ICM planning in the formulation of the provincial development and physical framework plan, among other related documents in line with the ICM principles:

- (a) the Chairperson of the Environment Committee of the *Sanggunian Paulalanigan*;
- (b) the Provincial Fisheries Office or Office of the Provincial Agriculturist;
- (c) the Provincial Tourism Office;
- (d) the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer;
- (e) the Board Member of Marine Protected Area Networks, where they exist;
- (f) the Regional Office of DHSUD; and
- (g) the private sector.

In cases where two or more provinces share a common resource such as bays, gulfs, river basins, lakes, watersheds, marine protected areas, marine biodiversity corridors, and upland ecosystems, the coordination support and assistance for the formulation, establishment, and implementation of the Inter-Provincial ICM Plan shall be provided by the concerned Regional Development Council established under Executive Order No. 325, series of 1996.

However, this provision shall not apply to provinces or common resources shared by several LGUs which have an existing ICM coordinating mechanism at the time of the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Additional Functions of the Provincial Development Council.* – In addition to the functions provided in Section 109 of R.A. No. 7160, the PDC shall:

- a) coordinate the efforts of provinces sharing a resource to address issues that cut across their political boundaries;
- b) coordinate the establishment and consolidation of baseline data on ICM especially in relation to biodiversity; and
- c) resolve conflicts arising from ICM between or among municipalities or cities, or between an LGU and a body managing a specially administered area within the province: *Provided, That*

boundary disputes between and among the LGUs shall be settled in accordance with Sections 118 and 119 of R.A. No. 7160 and its implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 13. Coordination of ICM Programs, Plans, and Activities at the City and Municipal Levels. – The City or Municipal Development Council (CDC or MDC) established pursuant to Section 107 (b) of R.A. No. 7160 shall be responsible for the integration of national ICM strategies within their respective development plans, land use plans, and other relevant plans, whether highly urbanized city (HUC), independent component city (ICC), component city, or municipal levels, including the implementation and coordination necessary therefor which shall be reviewed by the NCC. In addition to its members, the following offices and sector shall be represented thereto for the purpose of coordinating the formulation and implementation of the ICM Plan:

- (a) the chairperson of the Environment Committee of the *Sangguniang Panglungsod* or *Bayan*;
- (b) the city or municipal fisheries office or office of the city or municipal agriculturist;
- (c) the city or municipal Tourism Office; and
- (d) the private sector.

A position for a City Environment and Natural Officer (CENRO) or a Municipal Environment and Natural Officer (MENRO) shall be created or designated for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the ICM-responsive Local Climate Action Plans (LCCAPs), CLUP, and CDP.

However, this provision shall not apply to cities or municipalities which have an existing ICM coordinating mechanism at the time of the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 14. ICM Office. – Each province may establish an ICM Office to act as the secretariat to the PDC with regard to ICM programs, plans, and activities, and to monitor the implementation of the Provincial ICM Plan in consonance with the National ICM Framework: *Provided*, That where PENRO is already established it will act as the secretariat to the PDC: *Provided Further*, That an office or section under the Provincial Planning and Development Coordination Office focused solely on matters or tasks relating to ICM may serve as ICM Office. Otherwise, the Provincial Planning and Development Coordination Office shall serve as the secretariat to the PDC.

Each LGU shall allocate funds in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management for the creation of a *plantilla* position for CENRO or MENRO with the responsibility to coordinate and monitor the implementation of ICM-responsive LCCAPs, CLUPs, CDPs, and other related matters at the municipality or city level.

The provincial government ENRO shall act as the ICM officer at the provincial level with the responsibility of coordinating, monitoring, and reporting on the progress of ICM implementation and other related matters.

SEC. 15. Additional Functions of the City or Municipal Development Council. – In addition to the functions provided in Section 109 of R.A. No. 7160, the CDC or MDC shall:

- (a) ensure that the formulation of LCCAPs, CLUPs, CDPs, and Annual Investment Programs (AIPs) pursuant to Section 14 of R.A. No. 9729 or the "Climate Change Act of 2009" are guided by the ICM principles and incorporate the elements of ICM planning and shall be reviewed and approved by the appropriate government agencies or committees;
- (b) coordinate the efforts and the implementation of ICM-responsive local plans among relevant barangay to address issues that cut across their boundaries;
- (c) coordinate the establishment and consolidation of baseline data on ICM especially in relation to biodiversity and ecosystems goods and services;
- (d) resolve conflicts arising from ICM between or among barangays or between a barangay and a specially managed or administered area within the city or municipality.

SEC. 16. *Representation of Other Agencies and Stakeholders.* – Local government units may consider the representation in their respective development councils of other national agencies and stakeholder groups in ICM planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting processes, as they may deem necessary.

SEC. 17. *Assistance from LGUs and National Agencies.* – The local development councils may call upon any local official or any official of national agencies or offices within the LGU to assist in the formulation of local ICM-responsive local plans.

In providing technical assistance and other forms of support related to coastal management and the implementation of development plans, national government agencies shall give priority to fifth- and sixth-class municipalities and other LGUs with approved or existing ICM-responsive local plans.

SEC. 18. *Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting of ICM Framework.* –The NCC shall coordinate the preparation, consolidation, and submission of an initial State of the Coasts Report, one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act, based on a monitoring and evaluation mechanism that will be developed to track the progress of the country's ICM implementation. Every five (5) years thereafter, the NCC shall coordinate the preparation, consolidation, and submission to the President of the State of the Coasts Report on the implementation of the local ICM-responsive local plans such as LCCAPs, CLUPs, and CDPs, in line with the National ICM Framework. The LGUs shall submit their respective progress reports on the implementation of their respective ICM-responsive local plans to the NCC.

National government agencies which are members of the NCC shall update their existing monitoring and assessment mechanisms relevant to ICM to ensure compliance of the LGUs.

SEC. 19. *ICM Best Practices.* – The National ICM Framework and local ICM plans shall promote the application of best learnings which include the following:

- (a) coastal and marine use classification, marine spatial planning, and harmonization of comprehensive land and water use plan as management tools;
- (b) sustainable fisheries and conservation of living resources;

- (c) protection and rehabilitation of coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, estuaries, and other habitats, particularly through establishment of marine protected areas, nature reserves, and sanctuaries;
- (d) development of management approaches for the conservation of upland watershed, catchment areas, and river basins;
- (e) integrated waste management, including sewage and solid, hazardous, toxic, and other wastes by major sources;
- (f) natural and man-made hazards management;
- (g) water use and supply management;
- (h) payment for ecosystem services and equitable allocation of costs and benefits;
- (i) integrated and bay wide law enforcement;
- (j) disaster risk reduction and management in coastal areas;
- (k) climate change adaptation and mitigation in coastal areas;
- (l) community-led natural resource management;
- (m) recognition of indigenous peoples' concerns;
- (n) integrated management of port safety, health, security and environment protection; and
- (o) involvement of the private sector or business sector as a partner in ICM.

SEC. 20. *Incentives.* – The NCC shall develop a national incentive and recognition system to encourage and motivate the LGUs to diligently and efficiently implement, and monitor their ICM-responsive local plans.

In addition to the criteria provided in Section 7 of R.A. No. 11292, otherwise known as “The Seal of Good Local Governance Act of 2019”, the LGU may be granted the Seal of the Good Local Governance if its exemplarily implemented and sustained the ICM-responsive local plans.

The details of the recognition and reward system shall be provided in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

Sec. 21. *Scientific Advisory Group.* – The NCC shall establish a National Scientific Advisory Group to ensure that ICM interventions have sound scientific basis.

The Scientific Advisory Group shall provide advice to the LGUs in relation to technical documents, new scientific developments and policies in climate science and coastal management, and in achieving their environmental goals.

It shall be composed of the following:

- (a) a representative from the academe who specializes in ICM or any related discipline;
- (b) a representative from the DOST;
- (c) a representative from the DENR;
- (d) a representative from the BFAR;
- (e) a representative from the PAMS or other professional society related to natural resource management and coastal management; and
- (f) a representative from the PCG's Marine Science Investigation Force.

The Scientific Advisory Committee shall also convene to serve as the experts in discussing and advising on the technical and science-based issues related to Article III of this Act.

SEC. 22. *Role of National Government Agencies.* – All concerned national agencies shall support the implementation of the National ICM Framework and ICM-responsive local plans, and promote ICM best learnings that fall within their respective mandates. They shall identify, prepare, and provide policy guidance and technical resource assistance to the DENR, the development councils, and the LGUs in the implementation of the National ICM Framework and ICM-responsive local plans and in the enforcement of relevant coastal and marine policies and regulations; and regional and international commitments or treaties. These agencies shall directly consult with concerned LGUs in the development and implementation of the National ICM Framework and ICM-responsive local plans affecting coastal and marine areas in their respective localities.

All government contracts entered into and permits issued by the government such as foreshore lease agreements, forest management agreements, special land use permits, and mining permits shall be entered into or issued by the government and its instrumentalities in conformity with the National ICM Framework and ICM-responsive local plans.

Sec. 23. *Specially Managed or Administered Areas.* – Specially managed or administered areas such as river basins, Water Quality Management Areas (WQMAs) established under R.A. No. 9275, otherwise known as the "Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004", special economic and freeport zones, and protected areas, whether established under R.A. No. 11038 or by virtue of an ordinance, shall prepare their management plans in consonance with the ICM National Framework and relevant ICM-responsive local plans. Their management plans shall incorporate ICM principles and best practices taking into account the interlinkages between and among associated watersheds and wetlands.

Sec. 24. *Review of Existing ICM or Related Programs and Plans.* – Provinces, cities, municipalities, especially managed or administered areas such as special economic zones or freeport zones, bays, lakes or marine protected areas (MPAs) shall review, revise, reconcile, and harmonize their existing ICM or related programs or plans based on the National ICM Framework within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act. Actual use shall be preferred over future or reserve use: *Provided*, That all existing locational clearances and zoning permits issued by the LGUs prior to the

effectivity of this Act shall remain valid pending review of existing programs and plans and zoning ordinances (ZOs), and they shall not be invalidated because of the new and approved programs and plans and ZOs which determined proper location in a different coastal use zoning area: *Provided, further,* That appropriate measures shall be adopted by the LGU concerned, the landowner, and the developer in the event that any existing structure and facility are found to be properly covered by a different coastal use zoning category in the areas where they are currently located: *Provided, finally,* That existing structures and facilities within extremely hazardous and high risk danger zones which cannot be addressed by any mitigating or protective measures shall be required to relocate.

Sec. 25. Role of LGUs. – All LGUs shall act as the frontline agencies in the formulation, planning, and implementation of ICM programs in their respective municipal waters. The local ICM Plan shall be supportive of and compliant with the National ICM Framework and shall be prepared in consultation with the stakeholders. The LGUs shall regularly update their ICM-responsive LCCAPs, CLUPs, and CDPs to reflect emerging needs, and changing social, economic, and environmental conditions. The LGUs shall also ensure that their annual work and investment plans are aligned based on their ICM-responsive LCCAPs, CLUPs, and CDPs. The LGUs shall furnish the NCC their respective ICM-responsive local plans and all subsequent amendments, modifications, and revisions thereto. LGUs shall mobilize and allocate the necessary personnel, resources, and logistics to effectively implement their respective ICM-responsive local plans. Barangays shall be directly involved with municipal and city governments in prioritizing coastal issues and identifying and implementing solutions. Municipal and city governments shall consider ICM as one of their priority programs.

Provincial governments shall provide technical assistance, enforcement, and information management in support of Municipal and City ICM-responsive plans. Inter-LGU collaboration shall be encouraged in the conduct of activities related to protecting the country's coastal and marine resources.

Sec. 26. Roles of Civil Society and the Private Sector. – In the development and implementation of the ICM program, the NGOs, civic organizations, people's organizations, the academe, the private sector, and other concerned stakeholder groups shall be engaged in activities such as planning, community organizing, research, technology transfer, information sharing, investment, training programs, and monitoring; and evaluation, response, and feedback systems.

Sec. 27. Supporting Activities. – The following activities shall be undertaken in support of the implementation of ICM programs:

- a) ICM Education – The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall integrate the concept and basic principles of ICM into the primary, secondary, and tertiary education curricula, as well as in the textbooks, primers and other educational materials. The DOST shall, likewise, include integrated coastal management, tropical marine ecosystem management, and other related studies in their scholarship programs for graduate studies;
- b) ICM Training Program for LGUs – The DENR and the DILG, through the Local Government Academy, shall develop and provide ICM training programs for LGUs. For this purpose, LGUs may allocate funds for scholarships on tertiary and graduate courses relating to ICM or source funds for such scholarships other than LGU funds;

- c) Environmental and Natural Resource Accounting and Valuation for ICM Planning – The NEDA and the National Statistics Coordination Board (NSCB) shall incorporate coastal and marine resource accounting as well as estimates of their carrying capacity in the national and regional accounts;
- d) Coastal and Marine Environmental Information Management System – The DENR shall oversee the establishment and maintenance of a coastal and marine environmental information management system and network, in collaboration with other concerned national government agencies, institutions, LGUs, civil society organizations and other academic institutions. The DENR shall promote the documentation and information dissemination of good practices as well as initiate replication and scaling up of ICM programs in the country. The concerned agencies, however, shall review the coastal and marine data prior to their public dissemination.

CHAPTER III NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT ACTION PLAN

Sec. 28. National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan. – The NCC shall identify and convene all national government agencies responsible for foreshore management, mangrove and beach forest protection and utilization, coastal land and sea-use planning, coastal tourism development, social welfare of coastal communities, and other relevant mandates, to prepare an integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan (NCGAP).

The NCGAP shall, at the minimum, contain the following:

- (a) Spatial representation, or if feasible, quick or rapid inventory of the status of coastlines and foreshores, including the status of mangroves, beach forests, settlements, structures and fishponds within 100 meters therein;
- (b) Assessment of priority area to be declared as coastal greenbelts, for each coastal province, city and municipality, to protect by means of mangroves and beach forests, based on vulnerability to storm surges, waves, tsunami and the like. The action plan shall indicate that the assessment of priority areas shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the adoption of the NCGAP;
- (c) Designation of priority areas for coastal greenbelts that are already included as either as a protected area under R.A. No. 11038 or as a fish refuge or sanctuary under R.A. No. 10654 as amended, otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of The Philippines”, or as a local marine protected area as may be declared by municipalities and cities through ordinances. The designation shall be completed within six (6) months from the completion of the assessment. Designation shall also be done through a proposal to the appropriate agency, municipality or city as may be deemed necessary. If an area is designated as a priority area, no structure shall be allowed therein unless it is approved by the DENR or DA through the BFAR;
- (d) Operational plan for the rehabilitation, reforestation, or afforestation of designated priority coastal greenbelts with ecologically appropriate mangrove and beach forest species, not less than 100 meters 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, the designation of the priority area;

- (e) Operational Plan for the reversion of all abandoned fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species. The NCGAP shall indicate that the identification and recovery of possession from the delinquent fishpond lease agreement holders shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the adoption thereof. All fishpond areas to be reverted to mangroves shall form part of the minimum target for the first year of implementation of the NCGAP: *Provided, That* the reversion shall be in accordance with R.A. No. 8550, as amended by R.A. No. 10654, as well as existing rules and regulations;
- (f) Operational Plan for the removal of illegal structures such as breakwaters, permanent residential/commercial structures, and the like, in the identified priority coastal greenbelts. The NCGAP shall indicate that the declaration of and notice to persons responsible for removal of illegal structures shall be completed within twelve (12) months thereof. The removal of illegal structures in and start of rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of these areas shall form part of the minimum target for the first year of implementation of the NCGAP; and
- (g) Monitoring and evaluation plan, with quantitative and qualitative targets consistent with (d), (e), and (f) above, appropriate indicators and reasonable means of verification. The plan shall become an integrated part of the NCGAP-responsive LCCAP.

Sec. 29. *Designated Areas for Coastal Greenbelt.* – In designating areas for coastal greenbelts, landscape types will be classified into natural, rural and urban areas including mangrove areas, areas previously vegetated with mangroves, or mangrove areas converted into fishponds and other uses.

Sec. 30. *Implementation of the NCGAP.* – In addition to the functions of the NCC on ICM in Section 5 of this Act, the NCC shall take the lead in implementing the components of the NCGAP.

The DHSUD shall provide appropriation for the relocation of the families or individuals who will be affected by the designated areas. The relocation of the affected families or individuals shall be included in the Local Shelter Plan of the LGUs in accordance with R.A. No. 7160 and R.A. No. 7279, otherwise known as “Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992”, as amended by R.A. No. 10884.

Other agencies that participated in the preparation of the NCGAP-responsive LCCAP shall implement their commitments thereto. The actions required of the NCC are immediately executable based on the agreed NCGAP-responsive LCCAP, and on NCC members existing mandates, programs or budgets that are aligned with the action plan, without need for formulating implementing guidelines, rules and regulations for this Act.

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

Sec. 31. Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan. – Each coastal municipality and city in the identified priority coastal greenbelt areas shall prepare a Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan (LCGAP) which shall be integrated with the LCCAP, investment program, or other local government's development plans, for the facilitation of the implementation of mandated actions in the NCGAP. The roles of the municipality or city, as provided in the local LCGAP-responsive LCCAP shall be to:

- (a) Facilitate the implementation of the mandates of the national agencies under Section 29, by providing local data and other supporting measures;
- (b) Implement complimentary programs to assist the local communities and local businesses that are affected by the actions under Section 29, such as relocation sites with basic services such as livelihood and transportation programs, zoning or re-zoning of the priority coastal greenbelt areas, as appropriate, and the like;
- (c) Provide the actual inventory of affected families in Designated Areas and to ensure that a just and humane process of relocation done;
- (d) Lead in the actual implementation of rehabilitation, reforestation and afforestation, through the coastal barangays;
- (e) Integrate the identified coastal greenbelts in the LCCAP;
- (f) Provide data and qualitative feedback to the Key Implementing Agencies, as may be relevant.

The provincial government shall provide the technical and budgetary support to component coastal cities and municipalities sharing a common priority coastal greenbelt area.

The CCC shall evaluate, review, and assess the LCGAP-responsive LCCAP submitted by the LGUs which must be consistent with Section 8 and Section 29 of this Act on the elements of the National ICM Framework and National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan. The CCC shall also make the necessary recommendations for compliance by the LGUs on matters pertaining thereto.

CHAPTER IV FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 32. Prohibited Acts. – In addition to the acts and omissions prohibited under existing environmental laws, the following shall constitute prohibited acts:

- (a) In addition to the penalties provided under existing law, any person who obstructs the DENR in the removal of illegal structures, or DA through the BFAR in the process of reversion of abandoned fishponds, shall be liable to that agency for an administrative fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000) per day that the agency is prevented from performing its function.

- (b) No structures shall be built within the identified coastal greenbelts without a permit from DENR or DA through the BFAR, consistent with their mandates. Any person who violates this prohibition shall be liable to the agency for an administrative fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000) per day from the time the structure was built until its removal.
- (c) Any violation of the provisions of this Act, including the violations of the implementing rules and regulations which have been duly promulgated and published in accordance with Section 37 of this Act, shall be subject to an administrative fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000) upon any person or entity found guilty thereof.

Proceeds from the administrative fines under this Section shall be retained by the agency imposing such fines and used exclusively for the implementation of its mandate under this Act.

SEC. 33. Appropriations. – All concerned government agencies and LGUs shall allocate from their annual appropriations adequate funds for the implementation of the ICM-responsive LCCAP, CLUP, and CDP. In subsequent budget proposals, the concerned offices and units shall appropriate funds for program or project development and implementation including continuing ICM capacity building, training, and education. LGUs shall pool their resources in establishing inter-LGU alliances in the management of shared resources such as bays, gulfs, lakes, rivers, watersheds, marine biodiversity corridors, and marine protected area networks within their jurisdiction.

SEC. 34. Other Funding Options. – The NCC, the local development councils, the LGUs, and the national government agencies may source local and international grants, bequests, and donations in support of ICM implementation.

The Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the People's Credit and Finance Corporation, and other relevant government financial institutions shall formulate and identify loan and financing mechanisms that will be made available to support local ICM-responsive programs, including alternative livelihood projects for small-scale fisherfolks and cooperatives.

SEC. 35. Tax exemption. – All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to the NCC, the local development councils, the LGUs, the DA and the DENR to be used actually, directly, and exclusively for the implementation of the ICM shall be exempted from donor's tax and shall be allowed as deduction from the gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SEC. 36. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DA, DENR and CCC, in consultation with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 37. Annual Report. – The NCC shall submit an annual report to the Congress and the Office of the President on its compliance with its functions under this Act, the implementation of the ICM Framework, and the State of the Coasts Report on or before March 30 of every year following the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 38. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee. – There is hereby created a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) to monitor the implementation of this Act and to review the implementing rules and regulations promulgated by the DA, DENR and CCC for a period not exceeding five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act. The Committee shall be composed of five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Oversight Committee shall be co-chaired by the Chairpersons of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change of the Senate and the Committee on Climate Change of the House of Representatives.

The secretariat of the JCOC shall be drawn from existing personnel of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change and Committee on Climate Change of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 39. Separability Clause. – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

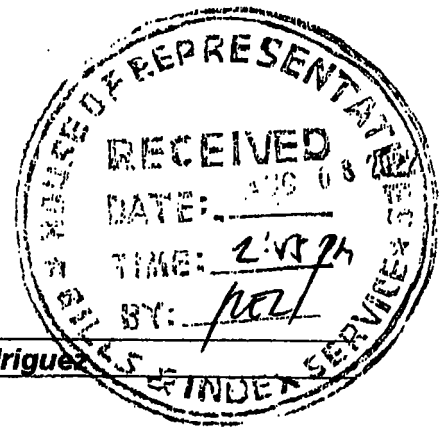
SEC. 40. Repealing Clause. – All other laws, decrees, orders, resolutions, instructions, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 41. Non-impairment Clause. – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal the prohibited acts under existing laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances, including R.A. No. 11038 and R.A. No. 8550, as amended by R.A. No. 10654.

SEC. 42. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 3303

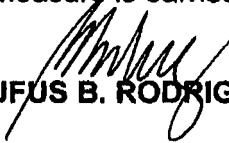
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The country has been hit by major typhoons almost every year for the past ten years which result in major destruction and loss of lives. In Cagayan de Oro, we were hit by Sendong which resulted in thousands dead and millions worth of property destroyed. Then there was Yolanda, and other typhoons and natural disasters.

The archipelagic characteristic of the Philippines affords us with one of the most bio-diverse territories in the world. Having the fifth longest coastline, 64 out of 81 provinces in the Philippines are coastal. This means that there is a higher disaster risk and hazard exposure which, in fact, placed the country at the top of the Global Climate Risk Index in 2015. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change continually threaten these coastal communities, making them constantly vulnerable and susceptible to the devastating effects of harsh weather phenomena.

The establishment of National Coastal Greenbelt Program aims to strengthen the existing laws, improve policies and measures to ensure innovative and viable programs which will promote, among others, beach forest protection, mangrove rehabilitation, and sustainable management of such.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 3303

AN ACT

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

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

Section 1. Title. – This act shall be known as the “National Coastal Greenbelt Act.”

Sec 2. Policy. – The State shall ensure the protection of the rights of the people to a healthful and balanced ecology. Consistent with the Climate Change Act of 2009 (R.A. No. 9729, as amended by R.A. No. 10174), the State shall encourage the participation of the national government, local governments, businesses, non-government organizations, local communities and the public to prevent and reduce the adverse impact of climate change. The State shall also recognize that climate change and disaster risk reduction and management are closely interrelated. The State shall incorporate a gender-sensitive, pro-children and pro-poor perspective in all plans of disaster risk reduction and management. These principles shall be further integrated into climate change programs and initiatives. Taking into account the effects of climate change and the need to conserve and develop the conditions of our environment, the State shall take appropriate measures to protect the lives and property of the people from the impacts in coastal areas of typhoons, tsunamis and similar natural events.

Sec 3. Definition of Terms.

- a. Coastal Greenbelts – A strip of natural or planted coastal vegetation, stretching at least 100 meters in width from the sea towards land, primarily of mangrove and beach forest species, which are designed to prevent coastal erosion, and mitigate the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property.
- b. Designated Area for Coastal Greenbelts – Site specific stretch of vegetation in areas with abandoned fishponds required the reversion of these fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species. Designated areas with illegal structures (such as breakwaters, permanent residential/commercial structures, and the like) require removal of such structures.
- c. National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan (NCGAP) – The operational plan that shall serve as the guide for the Local Greenbelt Action Plan (LCGAP). It shall contain the implementing guidelines on how to go about Section 4 of this Act.
- d. Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan (LCGAP) – The local action plan shall be based on the NCGAP. It shall contain the specific goals and targets for the implementation of the program set in the NCGAP.

Sec 4. National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan (NCGAP). – The Climate Change Commission shall, within six (6) months, identify and convene all national agencies responsible for foreshore management, mangrove and beach forest protection and utilization, coastal land and sea-use planning, coastal tourism development, social welfare of coastal

communities, and other relevant mandates, to prepare an integrated National Greenbelt Action Plan (NCGAP).

The NCGAP shall, at the minimum, contain the following:

- a. Spatial representation, or if feasible, quick/rapid inventory of the status of coastlines and foreshores, including the status of mangroves, beach forests, settlements, structures and fishponds within 100 meters therein;
- b. Assessment of priority area to be declared as coastal greenbelts, for each coastal province, city and municipality, to protect by means of mangroves and beach forests, based on vulnerability to storm surges, waves, tsunami and the like. The action plan shall indicate that the assessment of priority areas shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the adoption of the NCGAP;
- c. Designation of priority areas for coastal greenbelts that are already included as either a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (R.A. No. 7586), or as a fish refuge or sanctuary under the Fisheries Code of 1998 (R.A. NO. 8550), or as local marine protected area as may be declared by municipalities and cities through ordinances. The designation shall be completed within six (6) months from the completion of the assessment. Designation shall also be done through a proposal to the appropriate agency, municipality or city as may be deemed necessary. If an area is designated as a priority area, no structure shall be allowed in the said area unless it is approved by the DENR or BFAR, as may be appropriate;
- d. Operational plan for the rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of designated priority coastal greenbelts with ecologically appropriate mangrove and beach forest species, not less than 100 meters 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, the designation of the priority area;
- e. Operational Plan for the reversion of all abandoned fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species. The NCGAP shall indicate that the identification and recovery of possession from the delinquent fishpond lease agreement holders shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the adoption thereof. All fishpond areas to be reverted to mangroves shall form part of the minimum target for the first year of implementation of the Action Plan
- f. Operational Plan for the removal of illegal structures (such as breakwaters, permanent residential/commercial structures, and the like), in the identified priority coastal greenbelts. The NCGAP shall indicate that the declaration of and notice to persons responsible for removal of illegal structures shall be completed within twelve (12) months thereof. The removal of illegal structures in and start of rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of these areas shall form part of the minimum target for the first year of implementation of the Action Plan;
- g. Monitoring and evaluation plan, with quantitative and qualitative targets consistent with (d), (e), and (f) above, appropriate indicators and reasonable means of verification. The plan shall become an integrated part of the Action Plan and Annual Report to Congress.

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) shall be responsible for consolidating the NCGAP not later than twelve (12) months from the date this Act takes effect.

Sec 5. Key Implementing Agencies. – The following agencies shall take the lead in implementing components of the Program and Action Plan that are relevant to their mandates:

- a. The Climate Change Commission (CCC) shall be responsible for the congregation of relevant government agencies, facilitation of public participation in the preparation of the NCGAP, integration of the NCGAP into the Local Action Plans including the power of approving putting up necessary structures in the Designated Areas, and the preparation of the integrated report to Congress especially with regard to the expenditure of the appropriation and other pertinent matters under Section 8 of this Act;
- b. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its relevant offices, shall be responsible for the (a), (b), (c), (d) and (f) of Section 4 of this Act in line with existing laws and mandates, and it shall provide the CCC all relevant information to aid in the monitoring and evaluation of the NCGAP. In particular, the DENR shall identify the Designated Areas that will need to be expropriated by the government and to recommend the expropriation plan to the CCC.
- c. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall coordinate with DENR for (e) in Section 4 above all the Operational Plan that provides for the reversion of all abandoned fishponds to mangroves through natural degeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species in the line with existing laws and mandates, and it shall provide the CCC all relevant information to aid in the monitoring and evaluation of the NCGAP;
- d. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) through its relevant office, shall provide the technical guidance for provinces, cities and municipalities to develop Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Plans, design and implement community-based and ecologically appropriate rehabilitation, reforestation and afforestation programs, and monitor and evaluate their programs. In particular, the Local Inter Agency Committee (LIAC) shall coordinate with the Local Government Unit in implementing the action plans.

In addition, the National Housing Authority (NHA) shall provide appropriation for the relocation of the families or individuals who will be affected by the Designated Areas. The other agencies that participated in the preparation of the Action Plan shall implement their commitments, as provided therein. The actions required of implementing agencies are immediately executable based on the agreed National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan, and on their existing mandates, programs or budgets that are aligned with the Action Plan, without need for formulating implementing guidelines, rules and regulations for this Act.

Sec 6. National Technical Advisory Committee. – The Climate Change Commission shall convene a National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) composed of:

- a. A technical representative from the Climate Change Commission (CCC)
- b. A technical representative from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- c. A technical representative from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
- d. Two (2) known experts in mangroves and beach forest ecosystems, oceanography or other related disciplines
- e. A representative from a non-government organization or a people's organization that demonstrates capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership and structure that has been actively involved in mangrove research and has produced actual publication in mangrove research as among the criteria that shall be set by the DENR, BFAR and CCC.

The National Technical Advisory Committee shall provide scientific guidance in the design, implementation and evaluation of actions under the NCGAP. The experts shall serve in the

Committee without compensation but may be reimbursed for basic expenses to attend meetings and prepare technical reports.

Sec 7. Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan. – Each coastal municipality and city in the identified priority coastal greenbelt areas in the Action Plan shall prepare a Local Greenbelt Action Plan (LCGAP) to facilitate the implementation of mandated actions in the NCGAP. The roles of the municipality or city, as provided in the local LCGAP shall be to:

- a. Facilitate the implementation of the mandates of the national agencies under Section 4, by providing local data and other supporting measures;
- b. Implement complimentary programs to assist the local communities and local businesses that are affected by the actions under Section 4, such as relocation sites with basic services such as livelihood and transportation programs, zoning or re-zoning of the priority coastal greenbelt areas, as appropriate, and the like;
- c. Provide the actual inventory of affected families in Designated Areas and to ensure that a just and humane process of relocation done
- d. Lead in the actual implementation of rehabilitation, reforestation and afforestation, through the coastal barangays;
- e. Integrate the identified coastal greenbelts in the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan;
- f. Provide data and qualitative feedback to the Key Implementing Agencies, as may be relevant.

The provincial government shall provide the technical and budgetary support to component coastal cities and municipalities sharing a common priority coastal greenbelt area.

Sec 8. Enforcement Actions. –

- a) In addition to the penalties provided under existing law, any person who obstructs the DENR in the removal of illegal structures, or BFAR in the process of reversion of abandoned fishponds, shall be liable to that agency for an administrative fine of fifty thousand pesos (P50,000) per day that the agency is prevented from performing its function.
- b) No structures shall be built within the identified coastal greenbelts without a permit from DENR or BFAR, consistent with their mandates. Any person who violates this prohibition shall be liable to the agency for an administrative fine of fifty thousand pesos (P50,000) per day from the time the structure was built until its removal.
- c) Proceeds from the administrative fines under this Section shall be retained by the agency imposing such fines and used exclusively for the implementation of its mandate under this Act.
- d) Legal actions filed in the exercise of rights and enforcement of obligations under this Act shall be covered by the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases.

Sec 9. Appropriations. – The Key Implementing Agencies shall draw from their existing programs and budgets to implement their responsibilities under the Action Plan, and through the People's Survival Fund, where appropriate, subject to additional funding in the annual national appropriations, to meet the targets agreed in the Action Plan.

Sec 10. Annual Report to Congress. – The Key Implementing Agencies shall report to Congress on their progress in meeting the quantitative and qualitative targets under Action Plan for each fiscal year. The reports shall be consolidated by the Climate Change

Commission for the presentation to the appropriate Committee in Congress at a meeting called for the purpose.

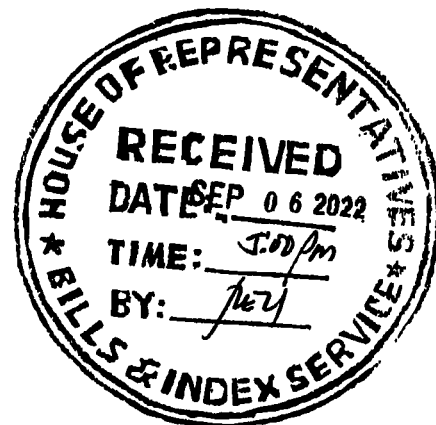
Sec 11. Separability Clause. – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

Sec 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, parts of laws, decrees, presidential decrees, issuances, proclamations, orders, and administrative regulations in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

Sec 13. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette and in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4496

Introduced by Representative **RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is among the largest archipelagic states, composed of 7,100 islands (300,000 sq. km. land area and some 36,000 km. of coastline) and covering an exclusive economic zone of about 2.2 million square kilometers. About half of the 87 million Filipinos live in coastal areas. The annual benefit derived from coastal ecosystems is estimated at P180 billion. Some experts estimate that the contribution of coastal areas to annual GDP can even be as high as 60 percent. In 2006, GDP was at P5.4 trillion. Yet a survey in 1996 showed that 80% of the coastal households lived below the poverty threshold (WB 2005, DENR/UNDP/MERF 2004).

The fisheries sector is most significant if only for the number of people dependent on it. In 1996, there were about a million fisherfolk, 68% of whom were municipal or small-scale fisherfolk. Fisheries contributes about 2-4% of GDP. Maritime transport is another significant sector. The Philippines has more than 1,250 ports and more than 30,000 ships plying the domestic routes. Marine transport contributes significantly to the growth of the transportation sector, which as a whole contributed about 7% to GDP. Coastal tourism is a major growth area, with 18 of the top 25 tourist attractions of the country located in coastal areas. Mining in coastal areas is also expanding, mostly in oil and gas. Lastly, major industrial areas are located in the coastal zone, where water is used for industrial processes or for transport of raw materials and products.

Despite the significant contribution of the coastal and marine area to GDP, development planning in the Philippines is still described as largely land-focused. The extent of the marine territory of the country is seven times the land area, yet there is no comprehensive plan to sustainably exploit the vast marine wealth. Ironically, land-based economic activities have largely contributed to the devastation of coastal and marine areas.

Due to the complexity of environmental issues and the variety of sectors benefiting from the coastal and marine resources, there is a need to adopt an innovative approach that will address environmental as well as socioeconomic issues in a comprehensive and integrated manner in order to promote optimum resource mobilization and sustainable coastal and marine development. Integrated coastal management is a dynamic process of planning and management involving stakeholders, and requiring the analysis of the environmental and socioeconomic implications of development, the ecosystem processes, and the interrelationships among land-based and marine-related activities across jurisdictions. Integrated coastal management is recognized as an effective approach to sustainable coastal and marine development with demonstrated benefits in enhancing economic growth, ecosystem protection, promotion of social equity, and the quality of life of the people.

The Philippines is a Party to many international agreements on seas and oceans, principally, the Convention on the Law of the Sea, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, as well as non-binding instruments such as the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 which promote integrated and sustainable coastal management. One of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is to ensure environmental sustainability by integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reversing the loss of environmental resources. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development promotes integrated, multidisciplinary and multisectoral coastal and ocean management at the national level. The Philippines is also committed to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, which requires concerted efforts towards integrated coastal and ocean management.

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



RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
Party-list Representative, TUCP

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4496

INTRODUCED BY HON. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA

AN ACT ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND ESTABLISHING SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This law shall be known as "Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management Act of 2022."

Section 2. *Policy Statement.* It shall be the policy of the State to insure optimum resource utilization and sustainable coastal and marine development. Towards this end, it shall adopt Integrated Coastal Ecosystem Management, hereinafter referred to as ICEM, and related approaches such as coastal resource management or coastal zone management as the national management policy framework to promote the sustainable development of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources in order to achieve food security, sustainable livelihood, poverty alleviation and reduction of vulnerability to natural hazards, while preserving ecological integrity.

Section 3. *Scope and Coverage.* ICEM shall be implemented in all coastal and marine areas, addressing inter-linkages among associated watersheds, estuaries and wetlands, and coastal seas, by all relevant national and local agencies.

Section 4. *Development of a National ICEM Program.* A National ICEM Program shall be developed by the DENR, in consultation with other concerned agencies, sectors, stakeholders, within one year from the effectivity of this Act to provide direction, support and guidance to the local government units (LGUs) and stakeholders in the development and implementation of their local ICEM programs. The National ICEM Program shall include principles, strategies, and action plans identified after balancing national development priorities with local concerns, define national ICEM targets and develop a national ICEM coordinating mechanism.

Section 5. *Implementation of ICEM Programs.* The implementation of ICEM programs shall take into account the following elements:

- 1) an interagency, multisectoral mechanism to coordinate the efforts of different agencies, sectors and administrative levels;
- 2) coastal strategies and action plans that provide a long-term vision and strategy for sustainable development of the coastal area, and a fixed term program of actions for addressing priority issues and concerns;
- 3) public awareness programs to increase level of understanding of, and appreciation for, the coastal and marine resources of the area, and to promote a shared responsibility among stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the ICEM program;
- 4) mainstreaming ICEM programs into the national and local governments' planning and socio-economic development programs and allocating adequate financial and human resources for implementation;
- 5) capacity building programs to enhance required human resource skills, scientific input to policy and planning processes, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with adopted rules and regulations;
- 6) integrated environmental monitoring for the purpose of measuring the status, progress and impacts of management programs against sustainable development indicators, as may be established, and for use in decision-making, public awareness and performance evaluation; and
- 7) investment opportunities and sustainable financing mechanisms for environmental protection and improvement and resource conservation.

ICEM programs shall promote the application of best practices, such as, but not limited to:

- 1) coastal and marine use zonation as a management tool;
- 2) sustainable fisheries and conservation of living resources;
- 3) Protection and rehabilitation of coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, estuaries and other habitats, particularly through implementation of marine protected areas, nature reserves and sanctuaries;
- 4) Development of upland, watershed, catchment areas and basin wide management approaches;
- 5) Integrated waste management, including sewage, and solid, hazardous, toxic and other wastes by major sources;
- 6) Integrated management of port safety, health, security and environmental protection; and

7) Involvement of the private sector/business sector as a partner in ICEM.

Section 6. National Government Responsibilities. All concerned national agencies shall support the implementation of the ICEM program and promote best practices, some of which are indicated in Section 5, that fall within their respective mandates. Specifically, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of Finance, Department of Tourism, Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Energy, Department of National Defense, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Labor and Employment, and the Department of Justice shall identify, prepare, and provide policy guidance, and technical and resource assistance to DENR and LGUs in the implementation of the National and Local ICEM Programs and enforcement of relevant coastal and marine policies and regulations. These agencies shall directly consult with relevant LGUs in the development and implementation of national plans and projects affecting coastal and marine areas in their respective localities.

Section 7. LGU Responsibilities for ICEM. Consistent with the provisions of the Local Government Code (Republic Act 7160) and the national sustainable development policies and strategies, LGUs shall act as the frontline agencies in the formulation, planning and implementation of ICEM programs in their respective coastal and marine areas. The ICEM programs of the LGU shall be in line with the National ICEM Program and prepared in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. LGUs shall update their respective ICEM programs to reflect changing social, economic and environmental conditions and emerging issues. LGUs shall furnish the DENR, within one month from adoption, with copies of their ICEM programs and all its subsequent amendments, modifications and revisions. LGUs shall mobilize and allocate necessary personnel, resources and logistics to effectively implement their respective ICEM programs.

Barangays shall be directly involved with municipal and city governments shall consider ICEM as one of their regular functions. Provincial governments may provide technical assistance, training, enforcement and information management in support to municipal and city ICEM. Inter-LGU collaboration shall be maximized in the conduct of activities related to sustaining the country's coastal and marine resources.

Section 8. Roles of the Civil Society and the Corporate and Private Sectors. In the development and implementation of the ICEM program, the NGOs, civic organizations, academe, people's organizations, the private and corporate sectors and other concerned stakeholder groups shall be engaged in activities such as planning, community organizing, research, technology transfer, information sharing, investment, and training programs.

Section 9. *Supporting Mechanisms and Activities.* The following activities shall be undertaken in support of the implementation of ICEM programs :

1) ICEM Education. The Department of Education shall integrate ICEM into the primary and secondary education curricula and/or subjects (i.e. Science, Biology, Sibika, History, among others), including textbooks, primers and other educational materials, basic principles and concepts of conservation, protection and management of country's marine resources;

2) ICEM Training Program for LGUs, DENR and DILG, through the Local Government Academy and building upon existing ICM expertise and experiences, shall develop and provide ICM training programs to LGUs;

3) Environmental and Natural Resource Accounting and Valuation for ICEM Planning. NEDA and the National Statistics Coordination Board shall incorporate coastal and marine resource accounting in the national and regional accounts; and

4) Coastal and Marine Environmental Information Management System. DENR shall oversee the establishment and maintenance of a coastal and marine environmental information management system and network, in collaboration with other concerned national government agencies, institutions and LGUs.

Section 10. *Monitoring of ICEM Progress.* The DENR shall prepare and submit an annual progress report on the National ICEM Program to the President; LGUs shall submit annual progress reports on local ICEM implementation to the DENR.

Section 11. *Budget Appropriation for ICEM.* All relevant national government agencies and LGUs shall allocate adequate funds for the development and implementation of ICEM programs from their existing budget. In subsequent budget proposals, the concerned offices and units shall appropriate budget for ICEM program development and implementation including continuing ICEM training and education.

Section 12. *Other Funding Options.* National government agencies may source local and international grants and donations in support of ICEM implementation and in accordance with relevant laws. The Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, People's Credit and Finance Corporation and other relevant financial institutions shall formulate and identify loan and financing mechanisms that will be made available to support local ICEM programs, including alternative livelihood projects for small-scale fishers and cooperatives.

LGUs particularly coastal cities/municipalities, as may be allowed under relevant laws, may raise revenues and secure funds to implement their ICEM program through :

- 1) Enactment of Tax Ordinances;
- 2) Allocation of funds from the Internal Revenue Allotment, subject to the approval of their legislative councils;

- 3) Utilization of shares in the development of national wealth;
- 4) Secure loans, grants and donations as may be applicable;
- 5) Privatization of local government-owned enterprises;
- 6) Adopt, as appropriate, user-fee schemes for waste management, exclusive use of coastal water areas for commercial and leisure purposes and other environmental services;
- 7) Public-Private Partnership Schemes under the Build Operate Transfer Law (Republic Act 6957 as amended by Republic Act 7718) and related laws;
- 8) Arrange credit financing schemes; and
- 9) Raise income through Inter-LGU cooperation.

Section 13. Separability Clause. If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared by the Court as unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof shall not be affected thereby.

Section 14. Repealing Clause. All laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 15. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect upon its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,