



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Bureau Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

The Officer-In-Charge
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING ON NATIONAL CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NCS-SRD) FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 16 November 2023

In reference to the electronic letter dated 15 November 2023, the Committee on Rural Development of the House of Representatives will be having a Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on **28 November 2023, Tuesday, 1:00 PM at Conference Rooms 1 & 2, Ramon V. Mitra Bldg. House of Representatives** to further study the salient points of the bills on National Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development (NCS-SRD) and to discuss the possible consolidation of the following legislative measures:

- **House Bill No. 262 - "AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR,"** authored by Rep. Christian Tell A. Yap;
- **House Bill No. 3566 - "AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"** authored by Representative Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga;

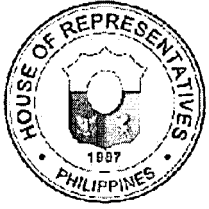
- **House Bill No. 5981 - "AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR"** by Rep. Dante S. Garcia;
- **House Bill No. 7114 - "AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR"** by Rep. Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Ph.D.; and
- **House Bill No. 7995 - "AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR"** by Rep. Midy N. Cua.

In this regard, may we respectfully request for comments and recommendations on the abovementioned bills, in anticipation of the Committee meeting, as requested by the Committee. Kindly send them on or before **Tuesday, 21 November 2023, at 5 PM** via email at denr1lo@denr.gov.ph. Further, kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Attached herewith are the Letter Invitation, Bill Matrix, and the House bills for your reference.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

Cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs



COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Committee Affairs Department, 3/F Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Bldg. Batasan Complex, Quezon City
☎ 8931-4673; Trunkline: 8931-5001 loc. 7138 📧 committee.ruraldevelopment@house.gov.ph

15 November 2023

HON. MARIA ANTONIA “TONI” YULO-LOYZAGA

Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DENR Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, 1100 Quezon City

Attention: Policy and Planning Service
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau

Dear Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga:

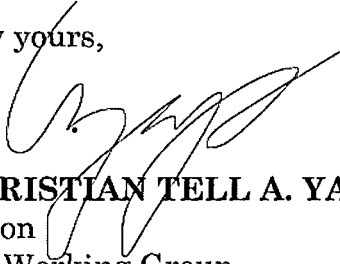
The House Committee on Rural Development will hold a Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting on **28 November 2023 (Tuesday) at 1:00 in the afternoon at Conference Rooms 1 & 2, Ramon V. Mitra Building, House of Representatives**, to further study the salient points of the bills on National Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development (NCS-SRD) and to discuss its possible consolidation. Said bills are as follows:

1. **House Bill Number 262**, entitled, “*An Act Institutionalizing the Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development and Providing the Implementing Mechanisms Therefor,*” authored by Representative Christian Tell A. Yap;
2. **House Bill Number 3566**, entitled, “*Act Institutionalizing the Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development, Providing the Implementing Mechanisms Therefore, and for other Purposes,*” authored by Representative Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga;
3. **House Bill Number 5981**, entitled, “*An Act Institutionalizing the Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development and Providing the Implementing Mechanisms Therefor,*” authored by Representative Dante S. Garcia;
4. **House Bill Number 7114**, entitled, “*An Act Institutionalizing the Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development and Providing the Implementing Mechanisms Therefor,*” authored by Representative Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Ph.D.; and
5. **House Bill Number 7995**, entitled, “*An Act Institutionalizing the Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development and Providing the Implementing Mechanisms Therefor,*” authored by Representative Midy N. Cua.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' participation in the said TWG meeting will be highly appreciated. Attached is the matrix of the aforementioned measures, for your perusal.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



REP. CHRISTIAN TELL A. YAP

Chairperson

Technical Working Group

National Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development (NCS-SRD)

COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MATRIX

NATIONAL CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NCS-SRD)

HB NO. 262 & 5981	HB NO. 3566	HB NO. 7114 & 7995	PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION
<p>FULL TITLE :</p> <p>AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR</p> <p>HB NO. 262 Principal Author: REP. CHRISTIAN TELL A. YAP Date filed: 2022-06-30</p> <p>Co Authors: 1.Rep. Christian Tell A. Yap Date: 2022-08-11 2.Rep. Gerardo P. Valmayor, Jr. Date: 2022-08-11 3.Rep. John Tracy F. Cagas Date: 2023-07-26</p> <p>HB NO. 5981 Principal Author: REP. DANTE S. GARCIA Date filed: 2022-11-09</p> <p>Co Author: Rep. John Tracy F. Cagas Date: 2023-08-01</p>	<p>FULL TITLE :</p> <p>AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES</p> <p>Principal Author: REP. WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA Date filed: 2022-08-12</p> <p>Co Authors: Rep. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D. L. Tan Date: 2023-02-21</p> <p>SIGNIFICANCE: NATIONAL</p>	<p>FULL TITLE :</p> <p>AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR</p> <p>HB No. 7114 Principal Author: REP. FRANCISCO "Kiko" BENITEZ Date filed: 2023-02-07</p> <p>Co Author: Rep. Eduardo R. Rama Date: 2023-05-16</p> <p>HB No. 7995 Principal Author: REP. MIDY N. CUA Date filed: 2023-05-09</p> <p>Co Author: 1.Rep. Steve Chiongbian Solon Date: 2023-07-25 2.Rep. John Tracy F. Cagas Date: 2023-08-01 3.Rep. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang Date: 2023-08-01</p>	

SIGNIFICANCE: NATIONAL		SIGNIFICANCE: NATIONAL	
CHAPTER I General Provisions	CHAPTER I INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS	CHAPTER I General Provisions	
<p>SECTION 1. <i>Short Title.</i>- This Act shall be known as the "National Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development (NCS-SRD) Act. "</p>	<p>SECTION 1. <i>Title.</i> This Act shall be known as the National Convergence Initiative Act of 2022.</p>	<p>SECTION 1. <i>Short Title.</i> — This Act shall be known as the "National Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development (NCS-SRD) Act."</p>	
<p>SEC. 2. <i>Declaration of Policies.</i> - It is the policy of the State to promote agricultural development as a means to ensure food security and alleviate poverty. Towards this end, the State shall develop and operationalize a common framework for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable rural development through the convergence of the resources of the principal departments of the National Government concerned with rural development, namely the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). This convergence shall be implemented through a national convergence strategy.</p>	<p>SECTION 2. <i>Declaration of Policies and Objectives.</i> It is the policy of the State to promote agricultural development as a means to ensure food security and alleviate poverty especially among the rural folks. Towards this end, the State shall develop and operationalize a common framework for sustainable and equitable rural development that will facilitate the convergence of the resources of the principal rural development agencies to maximize its impact.</p> <p>The implementation of the National Convergence Strategy shall be guided by the following principles:</p> <p>(a) The Department of Agriculture- Department of Agrarian Reform-</p>	<p>SEC. 2. <i>Declaration of Policy.</i> — It is the policy of the State to promote agricultural development as a means to ensure food security and alleviate poverty. Towards this end, the State shall develop and operationalize a common framework for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable rural development through the convergence of the resources of the principal departments of the National Government concerned with rural development, namely the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). This convergence shall be implemented through a national convergence strategy.</p>	

	<p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DA-DAR-DENR) National Convergence shall be treated as an institutionalized complementation strategy between and among the three rural development agencies. Whenever the opportunity arises, the Convergence shall work with other national line agencies, donor agencies, international and local non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs) mentioned in Section 6 hereof;</p> <p>(b) The primacy of the Local Government Units (LGUs) as the integrating and converging force for sustainable rural development at the local level shall be emphasized;</p> <p>(c) The participatory approach shall be adopted in all phases of development: from planning and budgeting, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation;</p> <p>(d) Complementation of resources and expertise of the concerned agencies and LGUs shall take primordial consideration in the implementation of the Convergence Initiative;</p> <p>(e) Convergence shall be mainstreamed in all programs, projects and activities of the national government agencies and concerned LGUs;</p> <p>(f) Networking and linkaging with other government entities such as, but not</p>		
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	<p>limited to, the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), State Colleges and Universities (SUCs), and Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), shall be undertaken by the three rural development agencies for coverage of potential areas under the Convergence Initiative for rural development;</p> <p>(g) Instituting relevant measures for an enabling environment to encourage investment by the private sector.</p>		
<p>SEC. 3. Guiding Principles. - The implementation of the National Convergence Strategy for sustainable rural development (NCS-SRD) is guided by the following principles:</p> <p>The National Convergence Strategy is an institutionalized complementation strategy among the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG. The four (4) rural development departments shall work with other national line agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), primarily the National Electrification Administration (NEA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and National Food Authority (NFA), the academe, donor agencies, international and local non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), and other relevant stakeholders to mitigate institutional coordination problems.</p>		<p>SEC. 3. Guiding Principles. — The implementation of the National Convergence Strategy for sustainable rural development (NCS-SRD) is guided by the following principles:</p> <p>a) The National Convergence Strategy is an institutionalized complementation strategy among the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG. The four (4) rural development departments shall work with other national line agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), primarily the National Electrification Administration (NEA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and National Food Authority (NFA), the academe, donor agencies, international and local non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), and other relevant stakeholders to mitigate institutional</p>	

<p>The complementation of resources and expertise of the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG, and local government units (LGUs) shall be the primordial consideration in the implementation of the National Convergence Strategy: <i>Provided</i>, that such collaborative activities shall not alter or impair the respective mandates of the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG;</p> <p>c) The primacy of the LGUs as the integrating and converging force for sustainable rural development at the local level shall be emphasized. The NCS-SRD shall aim to strengthen the LGUs into becoming sustainable economies;</p> <p>d) The National Convergence Strategy must have a defined constituency. Intervention following the ridge-to-reef strategy shall focus on smallholder farmers, both agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), and non-ARBs, small fisherfolk, upland dwellers, and Indigenous Peoples (IPs);</p> <p>e) The participatory approach shall be adopted in all phases of development: planning and budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and knowledge sharing;</p> <p>f) The National Convergence Strategy shall be incorporated in all programs, projects and activities of the national</p>		<p>coordination problems;</p> <p>b) The complementation of resources and expertise of the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG, and local government units (LGUs) shall be the primordial consideration in the implementation of the National Convergence Strategy: <i>Provided</i>, that such collaborative activities shall not alter or impair the respective mandates of the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG;</p> <p>c) The primacy of the LGUs as the integrating and converging force for sustainable rural development at the local level shall be emphasized. The NCS-SRD shall aim to strengthen the LGUs into becoming sustainable economies;</p> <p>d) The National Convergence Strategy must have a defined constituency. Intervention following the ridge-to-reef strategy shall focus on smallholder farmers, both agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), and non-ARBs, small fisherfolk, upland dwellers, and Indigenous Peoples (IPs);</p> <p>e) The participatory approach shall be adopted in all phases of development: planning and budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and knowledge sharing;</p> <p>f) The National Convergence Strategy shall be incorporated in all</p>	
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<p>government departments and concerned LGUs to enhance the complementation of resources and expertise of the DA, DAR, DENR, DILG, and LGUs;</p> <p>g) The National Convergence Strategy shall include relevant measures for an enabling environment to encourage investment by the private sector, cooperatives and other NGOs.</p>		<p>programs, projects and activities of the national government departments and concerned LGUs to enhance the complementation of resources and expertise of the DA, DAR, DENR, DILG, and LGUs;</p> <p>g) The National Convergence Strategy shall include relevant measures for an enabling environment to encourage investment by the private sector, cooperatives and other NGOs.</p>	
<p>SEC. 4. Scope. - This Act shall apply to all rural development areas primarily inhabited by targeted beneficiaries, namely, the smallholder farmers, both ARBs and non ARBs, small fisherfolk, upland dwellers, and IPs.</p>	<p>SECTION 3. Scope. This Act shall apply to all rural development areas primarily inhabited by the convergence initiative programs targeted beneficiaries - the marginalized farmers (both agrarian reform beneficiaries and non-agrarian reform beneficiaries), fisherfolks, upland dwellers, and indigenous people.</p>	<p>SEC. 4. Scope. — This Act shall apply to all rural development areas primarily inhabited by targeted beneficiaries, namely, the smallholder farmers, both ARBs and non- ARBs, small fisherfolk, upland dwellers, and IPs.</p>	
	<p>CHAPTER II DEFINITIONS</p>		
<p>SEC. 5. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act:</p> <p><i>Agrarian</i> reform beneficiaries (ARBs) refer to landless farmers and regular farm workers, irrespective of tenurial arrangement, who were awarded lands as evidenced by an Emancipation Patent (EP) or a</p>	<p>SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. As used in and for purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:</p> <p>(a) <i>Agrarian</i> reform beneficiaries (ARBs) refer to farmers who were granted lands under Presidential Decree No. 27, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and Republic Act No. 9700 or the "Comprehensive Agrarian</p>	<p>SEC. 5. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:</p> <p>a) <i>Agrarian</i> reform beneficiaries (ARBs) refer to landless farmers and regular farm workers, irrespective of tenurial arrangement, who were awarded lands as evidenced by as Emancipation Patent (EP) or a</p>	

<p>Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) under Presidential Decree (PD) No. 27 or Republic Act (RA) No. 6657, as amended, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988", including the leaseholders to the landowners' retained areas who represent the ARB group which were not awarded with lands but whose tenurial rights maybe evidenced by the registration of leasehold contracts;</p> <p><i>Agribusiness</i> refers to agriculture and fishery-based activities that put farmers, processors, distributors,</p>	<p>Reform Extension with Reforms" and regular farm workers who are landless, irrespective of tenurial arrangement;</p> <p>(b) Agricultural lands refer to lands devoted to or suitable for agricultural activity and not classified by law as mineral, forest, residential, commercial or industrial land;</p> <p>(c) Agro-based cluster refers to the concentration of producers, agribusiness and institutions that are engaged in the same agricultural or agro-industrial sub-sector, and inter-connect;</p> <p>(d) Coastal areas refer to a band of dry land and the adjacent ocean space (water and submerged land) in which terrestrial processes and uses directly affect oceanic process and uses, and vice versa. For purposes of initiating and implementing the Convergence Initiative, it shall include foreshore land;</p>	<p>Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) under Presidential Decree (PD) No. 27 or Republic Act (RA) No. 6657, as amended, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988", including the leaseholders to the landowners' retained areas who represent the ARB group which were not awarded with lands but whose tenurial rights maybe evidenced by the registration of leasehold contracts;</p> <p>b) <i>Agribusiness</i> refers to agriculture and fishery-based activities that put farmers, processors, distributors,</p>	
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<p>consumers, and other players within a system that produces, processes, transports, markets, and distributes agricultural and fishery products using appropriate technologies and applications;</p> <p><i>Convergence</i> refers to the integration, complementation, harmonization and optimization of institutional, technical, financial, and human resources;</p> <p><i>Ecosystem</i> refers to a physically defined environment made up of two inseparable components which are the i) biotope, or a particular physical environment with specific characteristics such as the climate, temperature, humidity, and concentration of nutrients, and the ii) biocenosis which is a set of living organisms such as animals, plants or micro-organisms that are in constant interaction and are, therefore, in a situation of interdependence;</p>	<p>(e) Ecosystem refers to the complex relationships among the living resources, habitats, and residents of an area. It includes plants, trees, animals, fish, birds, micro-organisms, water, soil, and people;</p> <p>(f) Enhanced National Convergence Initiative (Enhanced NCI) refers to the National Convergence Initiative Strategy provided for under DA-DAR-DENR Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01, Series of 2010;</p> <p>(g) Farmers refer to natural persons whose primary livelihood is cultivation of land or the production of agricultural crops, agro-forestry products, livestock and/or fisheries, either by himself/herself, or primarily with the assistance of his/her immediate farm household, whether the land is owned by him/her or by another person under a leasehold or share</p>	<p>consumers, and other players within a system that produces, processes, transports, markets, and distributes agricultural and fishery products using appropriate technologies and applications;</p> <p>c) <i>Convergence</i> refers to the integration, complementation, harmonization and optimization of institutional, technical, financial, and human resources;</p> <p>d) <i>Ecosystem</i> refers to a physically defined environment made up of two inseparable components which are the i) biotope, or a particular physical environment with specific characteristics such as the climate, temperature, humidity, and concentration of nutrients, and the ii) biocenosis which is a set of living organisms such as animals, plants or micro-organisms that are in constant interaction and are, therefore, in a situation of interdependence;</p>	
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<p><i>Forest ecosystem</i> refers to a dynamic complex of plant animal and microorganism communities and their abiotic environment interacting as a functional unit, where trees are a key component and where humans, with their cultural, economic and environmental needs are an integral part of;</p> <p>(f) <i>Indigenous peoples</i> (f Ps) refers to a group of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and ascription by others who have continuously lived as an organized community on communally bounded and defined territory, and who, under claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied the same; possessed customs, tradition and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and culture, became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos;</p> <p>(g) <i>Small holder farmers</i> refer to marginal and sub-marginal farm households that own or cultivate not more than three (3) hectares of land including ARBs and non-ARBs;</p>	<p>tenancy agreement or arrangement with the owner thereof;</p> <p>(h) Fisherfolks refer to people directly or</p>	<p>e) <i>Forest ecosystem</i> refers to a dynamic complex of plant animal and micro-organism communities and their abiotic environment interacting as a functional unit, where trees are a key component and where humans, with their cultural, economic and environmental needs are an integral part of;</p> <p>f) <i>Indigenous peoples (IPs)</i> refers to a group of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and ascription by others who have continuously lived as an organized community on communally bounded and defined territory, and who, under claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied the same; possessed customs, tradition and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, now-indigenous religions and culture, became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos;</p> <p>g) <i>Small holder farmers</i> refer to marginal and sub-marginal farm households that own or cultivate not more than three (3) hectares of land</p>	
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<p><i>Small fisherfolk</i> refer to people directly or personally and physically engaged in culturing and processing fishery and aquatic resources;</p> <p><i>Sustainable rural development (SRD)</i> refers to the development objective of meeting the needs of the present generation in the rural communities, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, consistent with the principles of social equity, efficiency and environmental integrity.</p>	<p>personally and physically engaged in taking and/or culturing and processing fishery and/or aquatic resources;</p> <p>(i) Good agricultural practices refer to applying available knowledge to addressing environmental, economic and social sustainability dimensions for on-farm production and post-production processes, resulting in safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products;</p> <p>(j) Local Government Units refer to government units at the sub-national level or government units at the regional, provincial and municipal levels;</p> <p>(k) Mangrove forests refer to silt-rich, saline (brackish water) habitat generally found along large rivers, deltas, and estuaries in the coastal areas. It is characterized by low tree diversity with a low broken canopy. It serves as barrier to strong tidal waves and habitat of various aquatic species;</p>	<p>including ARBs and non-ARBs;</p> <p>h) <i>Small fisherfolk</i> refer to people directly or personally and physically engaged in culturing and processing fishery and aquatic resources;</p> <p>i) <i>Sustainable rural development (SRD)</i> refers to the development objective of meeting the needs of the present generation in the rural communities, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, consistent with the principles of social equity, efficiency and environmental integrity.</p>	
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	<p>(l) Primary forests or old growth forests refer to untouched, pristine forest that exists in its original condition and has been relatively unaffected by human activity;</p> <p>(m) Ridge-to-Reef strategy refers to the development approach to improve the lives of the ARBs and small farmers, indigenous peoples, marginalized dwellers and fisherfolks (that is from upland and forest areas, in middle and lowland areas, down to the coastal areas);</p> <p>(n) Rural development agencies refer to the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;</p> <p>(o) Strategic Agricultural and Fisheries Development Zones (SAFDZ) refer to areas within the Network of Protected Areas for Agricultural and Agro-industrial Development (NPAAAD) identified for production, agro-processing and marketing activities to help develop and modernize, with the support of the government, the agriculture and fisheries sectors, in an environmentally and socio-culturally sound manner;</p> <p>(p) Secondary growth forests refer to the largest and most dynamic natural forest ecosystem in the Philippines. For purposes of this Act, it shall refer to as an area number of ways from degraded</p>		
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	<p>forest recovering from selective logging to areas cleared by slash-and-burn agriculture or "kaingin" that have been reclaimed by forest. It also characterized be a less developed canopy structure, smaller trees, and less diversity;</p> <p>(q) Sustainable rural development refers to the development objectives of meeting the needs of the present generation in the rural communities, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs consistent with the principles of social equity, efficiency and environmental integrity;</p> <p>(r) Upland / forest ecosystems refer to areas with at least 18% slope. For purposes of this Act, it shall also refer to an area that provides ecological benefits and support to agricultural production, industries, water, and power needs. Timber production as well as agroforestry activities may be promoted in these areas to maximize their utilization;</p> <p>(s) Watershed refers to a topographically delineated area of land from which rainwater can drain as surface run-off vis-à-vis a specific stream or river system to a common outlet point which may be a dam, irrigation system or urban water supply take-of point, or where the stream discharges into a river, lake or the sea.</p>		
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<p align="center">CHAPTER II Physical Framework</p>	<p align="center">CHAPTER III PHYSICAL FRAMEWORK</p>	<p align="center">CHAPTER II Physical Framework</p>	
<p>SEC. 6. Guiding Framework. - The convergence strategy shall adopt the ridge-to reef or sustainable integrated area development approaches as the intervention framework in the convergence areas.</p> <p>The ridge-to-reef strategy refers to the development approach where coastal and estuarine ecosystems are managed so human settlements in upland and forest areas, in middle and lowland areas, or in coastal areas, may use the resources therein to support livelihood and derive income therefrom in a sustainable manner, minimizing therefore damage to wetlands and marine environments. On the other</p>	<p>SECTION 5. Guiding Framework. The convergence strategy shall adopt the watershed and ecosystem management approach as the intervention framework in the convergence areas. This is primarily because the “ridge to reef” convergence strategy is an environmentally sustainable approach to development as human interventions in the forest and upland areas would impact on the lowland areas, and this in turn would affect the coastal and marine areas. Selection of convergence zones shall likewise take into consideration the SAFDZ provision of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997.</p>	<p>SEC. 6. Guiding Framework. — The convergence strategy shall adopt the ridge-to- reef or sustainable integrated area development approaches as the intervention framework in the convergence areas.</p> <p>The ridge-to-reef strategy refers to the development approach where coastal and estuarine ecosystems are managed so human settlements in upland and forest areas, in middle and lowland areas, or in coastal areas, may use the resources therein to support livelihood and derive income therefrom in a sustainable manner, minimizing therefore damage to wetlands and marine environments. On the other</p>	

<p>hand, integrated area development refers to a development approach that considers the ecological, economic, political, cultural and human challenges and opportunities in a specific area.</p> <p>For purposes of this Act, <i>convergence area</i> refers to the physical area that is selected according to a set of criteria mandated under Section 7 of this Act, and shall be developed according to a Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) proposed by the LGU, and approved by the NCS-SRD Executive Board created under Section 10 of this Act.</p>		<p>hand, integrated area development refers to a development approach that considers the ecological, economic, political, cultural and human challenges and opportunities in a specific area.</p> <p>For purposes of this Act, convergence area refers to the physical area that is selected according to a set of criteria mandated under Section 7 of this Act, and shall be developed according to a Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) proposed by the LGU, and approved by the NCS-SRD Executive Board created under Section 10 of this Act.</p>	
<p>SEC. 7. Criteria for Selection of Convergence Areas. - There shall be a set of mandatory and prioritization criteria that shall guide the identification and selection of a convergence area.</p> <p>(a) The mandatory criteria includes the following:</p> <p><i>Adequacy of ecosystem zones.</i> - The convergence area must cut across the various ecosystems or must be a combination of at least two (2) ecosystems;</p> <p><i>Good financial housekeeping record.</i></p>	<p>SECTION 6. Criteria for Selection of Convergence Areas. The following criteria shall guide the selection of convergence for the agro-enterprise cluster:</p> <p>(a) Completeness of ecosystem zones. The convergence sites should cut across the various ecosystems or should be a combination of two or more ecosystems;</p>	<p>SEC. 7. Criteria for Selection of Convergence Areas. — There shall be a set of mandatory and prioritization criteria that shall guide the identification and selection of a convergence area.</p> <p>a) The mandatory criteria include the following:</p> <p>1) Adequacy of ecosystem zones. — The convergence area must cut across the various ecosystems or must be a combination of at least two (2) ecosystems;</p>	

<p>- The LGU must show proof of good governance performance in internal housekeeping, particularly in sound fiscal management.</p> <p>(b) The prioritization criteria include the following:</p> <p>(1). <i>Key production areas with connectivity for increased productivity and income.</i> - The convergence areas must have been identified by the DA, DAR, DENR and the DILG for agro-forestry and fisheries development for major production or with potential for expansion, scaling up or connection to allied industries, services for backward and forward integration;</p> <p>(2). <i>Combination of sites across major poverty groups.</i> - The convergence areas must cover a significant number of smallholder farmers, agricultural workers including actual and potential ARBs, fisherfolk, IPs, rural women, and upland dwellers;</p>	<p>(b) Key production zones, agrarian reform communities (ARCs) and clusters with connectivity for increased productivity and income. The convergence sites should be current key production areas or with potential to substantially expand and scale-up production. As such, the area may transform; from mono-cropping to integrated, multi-cropping or high value farming system. In terms of connectivity, the key production zone may be linked with surrounding areas for allied industries/services or for backward linkages;</p> <p>(c) Combination of sites across major poverty groups. The convergence sites must cover a significant number of small farmers/agricultural workers including actual and potential ARBs, fisherfolks, indigenous people, a rural women and upland dwellers;</p> <p>(d) Presence of development-oriented</p>	<p>2) Good financial housekeeping record. — The LGU must show proof of good governance performance in internal housekeeping, particularly in sound fiscal management.</p> <p>b) The prioritization criteria include the following:</p> <p>1) Key production areas with connectivity for increased productivity and income. — The convergence areas must have been identified by the DA, DAR, DENR and the DILG for agro-forestry and fisheries development for major production or with potential for expansion, scaling up or connection to allied industries, services for backward and forward integration;</p> <p>2) Combination of sites across major poverty groups. — The convergence areas must cover a significant number of smallholder farmers, agricultural workers including actual and potential ARBs, fisherfolk, IPs, rural women, and upland dwellers;</p>	
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<p>(3) <i>Presence of relevant stakeholders and civil society organizations (CSOs).</i> - The convergence areas must have active CSOs that may be tapped to support the convergence initiative; these include private, business, academic, and research institutions that are willing to partner within the convergence area.</p>	<p>local government leaders and LGU alliances. The convergence sites should have LGUs and Local Chief Executives (LCEs) that share a common perspective in rural development and are willing to support the convergence initiative;</p> <p>(e) Presence of NGOs, POs, private sector and academic/research community. The convergence sites should have active POs and/or NGOs that are willing to support the convergence initiative. Presence of private/business and academic/research institutions that are willing to partner within the convergence framework shall be an advantage.</p>	<p>3) Presence of relevant stakeholders and civil society organizations (CSOs). — The convergence areas must have active CSOs that may be tapped to support the convergence initiative; these include private, business, academic, and research institutions that are willing to partner within the convergence area.</p>	
<p>CHAPTER III NCS-SRD Ecosystem Technical Working Groups and Components</p>	<p>CHAPTER IV NCI TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND COMPONENTS</p>	<p>CHAPTER III NCS-SRD Ecosystem Technical Working Groups and Components</p>	
<p>SEC. 8. <i>Ecosystem Technical Working Groups of NCS-SRD.</i> Three (3) technical working groups (TWGs) shall implement the NCS-SRD in an ecosystem. They shall be equally important and mutually re-enforcing, and shall ensure that the objectives of</p>	<p>SECTION 7. <i>Technical Working Groups of NCI.</i> The implementation of the NCI shall be done through Technical Working Groups along ecosystem. The three working groups shall be mutually re-enforcing and are equally important in ensuring that the</p>	<p>SEC. 8. <i>Ecosystem Technical Working Groups of NCS-SRD.</i> – Three (3) technical working groups (TWGs) shall implement the NCS-SRD in an ecosystem. They shall be equally important and mutually re-enforcing, and shall ensure that the objectives of</p>	

<p>the NCS SRD as a means of improving institutional efficiencies are achieved.</p> <p>Infrastructure development shall form part of the improvement of the ecosystem and shall sufficiently consider the impact of such development on ecosystem services.</p> <p>The TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management shall address the issues and concerns pertaining to the use and management of coral reefs, sea grasses and algal beds, brackish wetland areas, mangroves and beach forests ecosystems. The TWG shall be composed of representatives of the concerned offices and units of the DA, DAR, DENR and DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs, POs, the academe, private sector or business groups, and other associations may, upon determination of the NCS-SRD Executive Board, be invited to participate in the work of the TWG.</p> <p>The TWG on Sustainable Lowland Agriculture shall address the issues and concerns on the use and management of agricultural ecosystems through the application of good agricultural practices or applied knowledge and practices geared at addressing environmental, economic and social sustainability dimensions of</p>	<p>objectives are achieved and is seen to improve institutional efficiencies in the governance of sustainable rural development.</p> <p>(a) TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management – shall address the issues and concerns on pertaining to the use and management of coral reefs, sea grasses and algal beds, brackish wetland areas, mangroves and beach forests ecosystems. The TWG shall be composed of concerned agencies / units of the DA, DENR and the DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs/ POs, the academe, private sector or business groups / associations may also be part of the TWG whenever necessary.</p> <p>(b) TWG on Lowland Sustainable Agriculture – shall address issues and concerns on the use and management of the agricultural ecosystems through application of Good_Agricultural Practices (GAP). The TWG shall be composed of</p>	<p>the NCS- SRD as a means of improving institutional efficiencies are achieved.</p> <p>Infrastructure development shall form part of the improvement of the ecosystem and shall sufficiently consider the impact of such development on ecosystem services.</p> <p>The TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management shall address the issues and concerns pertaining to the use and management of coral reefs, sea grasses and algal beds, brackish wetland areas, mangroves and beach forests ecosystems. The TWG shall be composed of representatives of the concerned offices and units of the DA, DAR, DENR and DfLG. Other government agencies, NGOs, POs, the academe, private sector or business groups, and other associations may, upon determination of the NCS-SRD Executive Board. be invited to participate in the work of the TWG.</p> <p>The TWG on Sustainable Lowland Agriculture shall address the issues and concerns on the use and management of agricultural ecosystems through the application of good agricultural practices or applied knowledge and practices geared at addressing environmental, economic</p>	
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<p>on-farm production and post-production processes, resulting in unique and exceptional non-food agricultural products, and safe and nutritious food products. The TWG shall be composed of representatives of the concerned offices or units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs, POs, the academe, and private sector may upon the determination of the NCS-SRD Executive Board, be invited to participate in the meetings and activities of the TWG.</p> <p>The TWG on Forestry and Upland Development shall address the issues and concerns on the use and sustainable management of the upland areas and forests ecosystems through conservation of biodiversity, protection of primary or old growth forests and secondary growth forests, and rehabilitation of degraded and denuded ecosystems. The TWG shall be composed of representatives of the concerned offices and units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs, POs, the academe, private sector or business groups may, upon determination of the NCS-SRD Executive Board, be invited to participate in the meetings and activities of the TWG.</p> <p>For purposes of this section, <i>primary or</i></p>	<p>concerned agencies / units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs / POs, the academe, private sector or business groups / associations may also be part of the TWG whenever necessary.</p> <p>(c) TWG on Forestry and Upland Development – shall address issues and concerns on the use and sustainable management of the upland areas and forests ecosystems through conservation of biodiversity, protection of primary or old growth forests and secondary growth forest, and rehabilitation of degraded and denuded ecosystems. The TWG shall be composed of concerned agencies / units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs/ POs, the academe, private sector or business groups / associations may also be part of the TWG whenever necessary.</p>	<p>and social sustainability dimensions of on-farm production and post-production processes, resulting in unique and exceptional non-food agricultural products, and safe and nutritious food products. The TWG shall be composed of representatives of the concerned offices or units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs, POs, the academe, and private sector may upon the determination of the NCS-SRD Executive Board, be invited to participate in the meetings and activities of the TWG.</p> <p>The TWG on Forestry and Upland Development shall address the issues and concerns on the use and sustainable management of the upland areas and forests ecosystems through conservation of biodiversity, protection of primary or old growth forests and secondary growth forests, and rehabilitation of degraded and denuded ecosystems. The TWG shall be composed of representatives of the concerned offices and units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs, POs, the academe, private sector or business groups may, upon determination of the NCS-SRD Executive Board, be invited to participate in the meetings and activities of the TWG.</p>	
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<p><i>old growth forests</i> refer to untouched, pristine forests that exist in their original condition and relatively unaffected by human activity, while <i>secondary growth forest</i> refers to the largest and most dynamic natural forest ecosystem in the Philippines which is typically an area which has been disturbed, whether naturally or unnaturally, such as those recovering from the effects of selective logging, or areas that have been degraded by slash-and-bum agriculture or kaingin but have been reclaimed by forest growth and are characterized by a less developed canopy structure, smaller trees, and less diversity.</p>		<p>For purposes of this section, primary or old growth forests refer to untouched, pristine forests that exist in their original condition and relatively unaffected by human activity, while secondary growth forest refers to the largest and most dynamic natural forest ecosystem in the Philippines which is typically an area which has been disturbed, whether naturally or unnaturally, such as those recovering from the effects of selective logging, or areas that have been degraded by slash-and-bum agriculture or kaingin but have been reclaimed by forest growth and are characterized by a less developed canopy structure, smaller trees, and less diversity.</p>	
<p>SEC. 9. Components of the NCS-SRD. - The components of the functions of the three (3) TWGs are as follows:</p> <p>a) <i>Policy and Advocacy.</i> This component shall address the issues and problems of conflicting, overlapping, and other unclear policies related to land administration, regulatory framework, operational strategies, and jurisdictional boundaries.</p> <p>b) <i>Agro-Enterprise and Agribusiness Development.</i> This component shall</p>	<p>SECTION 8. Components of NCI. The following shall serve as cross cutting components of the three TWGs.</p> <p>(a) Policy and Advocacy. The component shall address the issues and problems of conflicting, overlapping, and other unclear policies related to land administration, regulatory, framework, operational strategies and jurisdictional boundaries.</p> <p>(b) Agro-Enterprise and Agribusiness Development. The component shall facilitate enterprise</p>	<p>SEC. 9. Components of the NCS-SRD. — The components of the functions of the three (3) TWGs are as follows:</p> <p>a) <i>Policy and Advocacy.</i> This component shall address the issues and problems of conflicting, overlapping, and other unclear policies related to land administration, regulatory framework, operational strategies, and jurisdictional boundaries.</p> <p>b) <i>Agro-Enterprise and Agribusiness Development.</i> This</p>	

<p>facilitate enterprise development and agribusiness within the convergence areas through the establishment of agro-enterprise clusters in all provinces. These clusters shall be the focus for agribusiness initiatives based on the potential of the areas, especially those designated as strategic zones in the strategic agricultural and fisheries development zones maps.</p> <p>For purposes of this section, a <i>strategic agricultural and fisheries development zone</i> refers to an area within the Network of Protected Areas for Agricultural and Agro-industrial Development identified for production, agro-processing, and marketing activities to help develop, and modernize, with the support of the government, the agriculture and fisheries sectors in an environmentally and socio-culturally sound manner.</p> <p>c) <i>Capacity Development.</i> This component shall ensure the organizational preparedness of the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG and the building up of the capacity of other stakeholders to implement the NCS-SRD through training and technology-transfer activities.</p> <p>(d) <i>Knowledge Management.</i> This</p>	<p>development and agribusiness within the convergence sites through the establishment of agro-enterprises clusters in all provinces. These clusters shall be the focus for agribusiness initiatives based on the potential of the areas especially those designated as strategic zones as identified by the SAFDZ maps.</p> <p>(c) Capacity Development. The component shall ensure the organizational preparedness of the three agencies and capability of the implementers and other stakeholders to implement the convergence initiative.</p> <p>(d) Knowledge Management. The component shall ensure that NCI</p>	<p>component shall facilitate enterprise development and agribusiness within the convergence areas through the establishment of agro-enterprise clusters in all provinces. These clusters shall be the focus for agribusiness initiatives based on the potential of the areas, especially those designated as strategic zones in the strategic agricultural and fisheries development zones maps.</p> <p>For purposes of this section, a strategic agricultural and fisheries development zone refers to an area within the Network of Protected Areas for Agricultural and Agro-industrial Development identified for production, agro-processing, and marketing activities to help develop, and modernize, with the support of the government, the agriculture and fisheries sectors in an environmentally and socio-culturally sound manner.</p> <p>c) <i>Capacity Development.</i> This component shall ensure the organizational preparedness of the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG and the building up of the capacity of other stakeholders to implement the NCS-SRD through training and technology-transfer activities.</p> <p>d) <i>Knowledge Management.</i> This</p>	
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<p>component shall ensure that the NCS-SRD programs, projects and activities are properly and efficiently monitored and documented to facilitate adoption, expansion and scaling up of innovations, when possible and necessary.</p>	<p>programs, projects and initiatives are implemented and monitored in an efficient and effective manner. It shall likewise ensure that innovations are documented for possible adoption, expansion and scaling up.</p>	<p>component shall ensure that the NCS-SRD programs, projects and activities are properly and efficiently monitored and documented to facilitate adoption, expansion and scaling up of innovations, when possible and necessary.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER IV Implementing Structure and Mechanism</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article One National Policy Administration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER V IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURE AND MECHANISM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article I National Policy Administration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER IV Implementing Structure and Mechanism</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article One National Policy Administration</p>	
	<p>SECTION 9. Creation of the National Convergence Initiative Administration (NCIA). The National Convergence Initiative Administration is hereby created. The NCIA shall be the primary coordinating body of the NCI program and shall be under the Office of the President. As a primary coordinating body it shall also be the convenor of the current National Convergence Initiative - Technical Working Group (NCI-TWG).</p> <p>SECTION 9 - A. Composition. The NCI -TWG to be convened by the NCIA shall have the following members:</p> <p>(a) Administrator</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Deputy Administrator (c) Chairperson, TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management (d) Chairperson, TWG on Lowland Resources Management (e) Chairperson, TWG on Forestry and Upland Development (f) Chairperson, Working Group on Policy and Advocacy (g) Chairperson Working Group on Agro-Enterprise Development (h) Chairperson, Working Group on Knowledge Management (i) Chairperson, Working Group on Capacity Development (j) Convergence Focal Person, DA (k) Convergence Focal Person, DAR (l) Convergence Focal Person, DENR (m) Head, NCI Secretariat <p>SECTION 9 - B. Powers and Functions of the NCIA. The NCIA shall have the following powers and functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Formulate sustainable rural development framework and recommend to the Board (Section 13) necessary adjustments; (b) Integrate, harmonize and oversee the implementation of the convergence initiative plans and programs of the sub-national TWGs; 		
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	<p>(c) Recommend to the Executive Board the operational plans, programs, and guidelines relevant to the NCI Framework;</p> <p>(d) Carry out data-based management of convergence area and prospective convergence areas nation-wide;</p> <p>(e) Mobilize concerned personnel to actively participate in various activities relative to the Convergence Initiative;</p> <p>(f) Thoroughly evaluate memorandum of agreements and other agreements;</p> <p>(g) Facilitate the formation of Convergence teams together with other concerned stakeholders;</p> <p>(h) Monitor and evaluate the progress of implementation of Convergence projects/activities;</p> <p>SECTION 9 - C. Powers and Functions of the NCIA Administrator. The Administrator shall also have the following powers and functions:</p> <p>(a) Act as the executive head of the of the NCIA and Secretary of the Board and perform the powers and</p>		
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	<p>functions incident to the said positions;</p> <p>(b) Be responsible for the implementation and overall execution of the policies, rules and regulations and decisions adopted by the Board and as such, shall issue the corresponding implementing administrative issuances and promulgate opinions and interpretative circulars and rulings to ensure expeditious and effective implementation thereof;</p> <p>(c) Approve plans and programs prepared by the Regional, Provincial and Municipal Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group;</p> <p>(d) Review fulfillment of the commitments of the respective agencies related to the implementation of the NCI; and</p> <p>(e) Perform other powers and functions as may be inherent, incident, or related to the foregoing;</p> <p>SECTION 9 - D. Qualifications of the Administrator. The Administrator must have a background or significant training preferably in the field of economics, business economics, agriculture, agribusiness, land resources management, and development planning and</p>		
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	<p>management for a period of at least five (5) years. The Administrator shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines and shall have the rank of Undersecretary.</p> <p>SECTION 9 - E. Deputy Administrator. The Administrator shall be assisted by a Deputy Administrator who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the Board's recommendation. The Deputy Administrator shall have the same qualifications as the Administrator and shall have the rank of Assistant Secretary.</p> <p>The Deputy Administrator shall be the operational and administrative manager of the NCIA and shall assist the administrator in routine housekeeping functions.</p>		
<p>SEC. 10. NCS-SRD Executive Board. -The NCS-SRD Executive Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is established to act as the policy making body of the NCS-SRD. The Board shall direct the implementation of the provisions of this Act, and shall have the following as <i>ex-officio</i> members:</p>	<p>SECTION 10. NCIA Executive Board. The NCIA shall have an Executive Board hereinafter referred to as the Board which shall act as the policy making body of the NCI. The Board shall direct the implementation of the provisions of this Act.</p> <p>SECTION 10 - A. Composition. The Board shall be composed of five (5)</p>	<p>SEC. 10. NCS-SRD Executive Board. — The NCS-SRD Executive Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is established to act as the policy making body of the NCP-SRD. The Board shall direct the implementation of the provisions of this Act, and shall have the following as <i>cx-officio</i> members:</p>	

<p>(a) Secretary of Agriculture as Chairperson;</p> <p>(b) Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources;</p> <p>(c) Secretary of Agrarian Reform;</p> <p>(d) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government; and</p> <p>(e) Executive Director of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat.</p> <p>The Department Secretaries may appoint their respective permanent alternate representatives whose rank shall not be lower than Undersecretary</p>	<p>voting members:</p> <p>(a) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture as Chairperson;</p> <p>(b) The Secretaries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Agrarian Reform as Vice Chairpersons;</p> <p>(c) The Secretaries of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Director-General for the National Economic Development Agency as members;</p> <p>(d) The Administrator of NCIA, as ex-officio member, who shall likewise act as Secretary to the Board.</p> <p>The Secretaries may appoint their respective permanent alternate representatives with a rank of not lower than Undersecretary.</p>	<p>a) Secretary of Agriculture as Chairperson;</p> <p>b) Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources;</p> <p>c) Secretary of Agrarian Reform;</p> <p>d) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government; and</p> <p>e) Executive Director of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat.</p> <p>The Department Secretaries may appoint their respective permanent alternate representatives whose rank shall not be lower than Undersecretary.</p>	
<p>SEC. 11. Powers and Functions. - The Board shall exercise the following powers and functions:</p>	<p>SECTION 10 - B. Powers and Functions. The NCIA Executive Board shall assume the following powers and functions of the current National</p>	<p>SEC. 11. Powers and Functions. — The Board shall exercise the following powers and functions:</p>	

<p>Provide the overall policy directions for the implementation of programs, projects and other related activities under the NCS-SRD;</p> <p>Approve programs, projects, and plans, and the implementing rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of the NCS-SRD;</p> <p>Appoint the national focal person (NFP) with a rank of Assistant Secretary and a deputy national focal person (DNFP) with a rank of Director IV to spearhead the NCS-SRD Technical Working Group (NCS-SRD TWG) and oversee and supervise NCS-SRD operations.</p> <p>Consult with other concerned national government agencies, stakeholders, and partner agencies on policies and major programs related to sustainable rural development;</p> <p>Approve memoranda of agreement with investors and funding agencies as recommended for approval by the NCS-SRD national focal person;</p> <p>Approve the implementation and coordination structure of the NCS-SRD, including the membership of</p>	<p>Steering Committee, namely:</p> <p>(a) Provide overall policy directions for the implementation of programs/projects and other related activities under the NCI;</p> <p>(b) Approve/ratify implementing rules and regulations, programs, projects and plans pertaining to the operation of the NCI;</p> <p>(c) Consult with other concerned national government agencies, stakeholders, and partner agencies on policies and major programs related to sustainable rural development;</p> <p>(d) Approve of Memorandum of Agreements with investors and funding agencies being recommended for approval by the NCIA;</p>	<p>a) Provide the overall policy directions for the implementation of programs, projects and other related activities under the NCS-SRD;</p> <p>b) Approve programs, projects, and plans, and the implementing rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of the NCS-SRD;</p> <p>c) Appoint the national focal person (NFP) with a rank of Assistant Secretary and a deputy national focal person (DNFP) with a rank of Director IV to spearhead the NCS-SRD Technical Working Group (NCS-SRD TWG) and oversee and supervise NCS-SRD operations;</p> <p>d) Consult with other concerned national government agencies, stakeholders, and partner agencies on policies and major programs related to sustainable rural development;</p> <p>e) Approve memoranda of agreement with investors and funding agencies as recommended for approval by the NCS-SRD national focal person;</p>	
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<p>the National Convergence Strategy Technical Working Group (NCS-SRD TWG), the three (3) NCS-SRD Ecosystem Technical Working Groups (NCS SRD ETWG) and the four (4) NCS-SRD Component Working Groups (NCS-SRD CWG), through a Joint Special Order;</p> <p>Allocate the resources to carry out the plans, programs, projects, and other related activities of the NCS-SRD;</p> <p>Regularly advise the President of the Philippines on all matters concerning the implementation of convergence initiative strategies;</p>	<p>(e) Regularly advise the President on all matters concerning the implementation of convergence initiative strategies;</p>	<p>f) Approve the implementation and coordination structure of the NCS-SRD, including the membership of the National Convergence Strategy Technical Working Group (NHS-SRD TWG), the three (3) NCS—SRD Ecosystem Technical Working Groups (NCS- SRD ETWG) and the four (4) NCS-SRD Component Working Groups (NCS-SRD CWG), through a Joint Special Order;</p> <p>g) Allocate the resources to carry out the plans, programs, projects, and other related activities of the NCS-SRD;</p> <p>h) Regularly advise the President of the Philippines on all matters concerning the implementation of convergence initiative strategies.</p>	
<p>SEC. 12. Meetings of the Board. - The Board shall meet on a quarterly basis and may hold special meetings as deemed necessary. The Secretary of Agriculture shall act as the Lead Convenor and the Secretaries of Agrarian Reform, Environment and Natural Resources, and the Interior and Local Government shall act as Co-Convenors. The meetings may be held in rotation amongst the four (4) departments of the convenors. In the</p>	<p>SECTION 10 - C. Meetings. The Board shall meet on a quarterly basis and may hold special meetings as deemed necessary. However, hosting of NSC meetings may rotate amongst the three rural development agencies.</p>	<p>SEC. 12. Meetings of the Board. — The Board shall meet on a quarterly basis and may hold special meetings as deemed necessary. The Secretary of Agriculture shall act as the Lead Convenor and the Secretaries of Agrarian Reform, Environment and Natural Resources, and the Interior and Local Government shall act as Co-Convenors. The meetings may be held in rotation amongst the four (4) departments of the convenors. In the</p>	

<p>absence of the Lead Convenor or Co-Convenor of the host department, the principal members present may decide or choose among themselves who shall chair the meeting.</p>		<p>absence of the Lead Convenor or Co-Convenor of the host department, the principal members present may decide or choose among themselves who shall chair the meeting.</p>	
	<p>SECTION 11. Technical Working Groups and Components of the NCI-TWG. The Administrator shall convene the members of the respective Working Groups to elect amongst them the Chairperson for each Working Group. The Chairperson of each Working Group shall then designate or appoint a Coordinator from their respective agency. The functions and composition of the Technical Working Groups and Components shall remain in force until revised by the NCIA Board.</p>		
<p>SEC. 13. National Focal Person and Deputy National Focal Person. - The Board shall appoint a National Focal Person (NFP), with a rank of Assistant Secretary, to spearhead the NCS-SRD Technical Working Group (NCS-SRD TWG) and supervise the NCS-SRD operations. The NFP shall act as the Chairperson of the NCS-SRD TWG and shall be assisted by a Deputy National Focal Person (DNFP), with a rank of Director IV, and by the NCS-SRD Executive Director. The NFP shall</p>		<p>SEC. 13. National Focal Person and Deputy National Focal Person. — The Board shall appoint a National Focal Person (NFP), with a rank of Assistant Secretary, to spearhead the NCS-SRD Technical Working Group (NCS-SRD TWG) and supervise the NCS-SRD operations. The NFP shall act as the Chairperson of the NCS-SRD TWG and shall be assisted by a Deputy National Focal Person (DNFP), with a rank of Director IV, and by the NCS-SRD Executive Director. The</p>	

<p>also convene the members of the NCS-SRD TWG to discuss the status of the NCS-SRD programs, projects and activities before the conduct of Board meetings. The NFP shall come from the DA as the lead department, the DNFP shall come from the DENR, DAR, or DILG.</p>		<p>NFP shall also convene the members of the NHS-SRD TWG to discuss the status of the NCS-SRD programs, projects and activities before the conduct of Board meetings. The NFP shall come from the DA as the lead department, the DNFP shall come from the DENR DAR, or DILG.</p>	
<p>SEC. 14. <i>Convergence Focal Persons.</i> -The DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG shall designate a Convergence Focal Person responsible for the coordination and management of the convergence program in their respective departments in the national and field levels.</p>	<p>SECTION 12. <i>Convergence Focal Person.</i> Each agency shall designate a Convergence Focal Person who shall be responsible for the coordination and management of the convergence program in their respective agency (national and field levels). The agency Convergence Focal Person shall likewise be a member of the NCIA TWG. The agency Convergence Focal Person shall work closely with the NCI Secretariat for effective coordination of concerns of NCI and the working groups relative to their respective agency.</p>	<p>SEC. 14. <i>Convergence Focal Persons.</i> — The DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG shall designate a Convergence Focal Person responsible for the coordination and management of the convergence program in their respective departments in the national and field levels.</p>	
<p>SEC. 15. <i>NCS-SRD TWG.</i> - The NCS-SRD TWG shall serve as the advisory and recommendatory body to the Board on matters related to the implementation of the NCS SRD.</p>		<p>SEC. 15. <i>NCS-SRD TWG.</i> — The NCS-SRD TWG shall serve as the advisory and recommendatory body to the Board on matters related to the implementation of the NCS-SRD.</p>	
<p>SEC. 16. <i>Composition of the NCS-</i></p>		<p>SEC. 16. <i>Composition of the NCS-</i></p>	

<p>SRD TWG. - The NCS-SRD TWG shall be composed of the following members:</p> <p>(a) Chairperson, TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management</p> <p>(b) Chairperson, TWG on Lowland Resources Management</p> <p>(c) Chairperson, TWG on Forestry and Upland Development</p> <p>(d) Convergence Focal Person, DA (Agro-Enterprise Development)</p> <p>(e) Convergence Focal Person, DAR (Policy and Advocacy)</p> <p>(f) Convergence Focal Person, DENR (Knowledge Management)</p> <p>(g) Convergence Focal Person, DILG (Capacity Development)</p> <p>(h) Executive Director, NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office</p>		<p>SRD TWG. — The NHS-SRD TWG shall be composed of the following members:</p> <p>a) Chairperson, TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management</p> <p>b) Chairperson, TWG on Lowland Resources Management</p> <p>c) Chairperson, TWG on Forestry and Upland Development</p> <p>d) Convergence Focal Person, DA (Agro-Enterprise Development)</p> <p>e) Convergence Focal Person, DAR (Policy and Advocacy)</p> <p>f) Convergence Focal Person, DENR (Knowledge Management)</p> <p>g) Convergence Focal Person, DILG (Capacity Development)</p> <p>h) Executive Director, NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office</p>	
<p>SEC. 17. NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office. - NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office. - A permanent NCS-SRD National Secretariat is created with a plantilla for its administrative and technical staff</p>	<p>SECTION 13. National Convergence Initiative Secretariat. The Board shall appoint the Head of the NCI Secretariat with the Coordinators of each of the Technical Working Groups and components as members. There</p>	<p>SEC. 17. NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office. — A permanent NCP-SRD National Secretariat is created with a plantilla for its administrative and technical staff complement. Filling up of permanent</p>	

<p>complement. Filling up of permanent personnel must be based on the current and existing NCS-SRD National Secretariat organizational structure. The NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office headed by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Executive Director shall have a rank of Director IV and shall oversee and supervise NCS SRD operations and the National Secretariat. The Executive Director shall come from DA and shall directly report to the Board.</p> <p>The NCS-SRD National Secretariat shall be composed of personnel to be selected and seconded from the DA, DENR, DAR and the DILG in addition to the designated coordinators of each working group. The NCS-SRD National Secretariat shall work closely with the NCS SRD national focal person and deputy national focal person, the Chairpersons of the different TWGs and the Convergence Focal Persons.</p>	<p>will also be permanent members of the Secretariat coming from the three agencies on top of the coordinators of each working group. The NCI Secretariat shall work closely with the NCIA Administrator, the Chairperson of the different Working Groups and the agency Convergence Focal Person.</p>	<p>personnel must be based on the current and existing NCS-SRD National Secretariat organizational structure. The NHS-SRD National Secretariat Office headed by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Executive Director shall have a rank of Director IV and shall oversee and supervise NHS-SRD operations and the National Secretariat. The Executive Director shall come from DA and shall directly report to the Board.</p> <p>The NCS-SRD National Secretariat shall be composed of personnel to be selected and seconded from the DA, DENR, DAR and the DILG in addition to the designated coordinators of each working group. The NCS-SRD Nations Secretariat shall work closely with the NCS- SRD national focal person and deputy national focal person, the Chairpersons of the different TWGs and the Convergence Focal Persons.</p>	
<p>SEC. 18. <i>Functions of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat.</i> - The NCS-SRD National Secretariat shall have the following functions:</p>	<p>SECTION 13 - A. <i>Functions of the NCI Secretariat.</i> The NCI Secretariat shall:</p> <p>(a) Implement approved plans and projects;</p>	<p>SEC. 18. <i>Functions of the NCSMRD National Secretariat.</i> — The NCS-SRD National Secretariat shall have the following functions:</p>	

<p>(a) Assist in the conduct of Board and NCS-SRD TWG meetings and workshops, write shops, seminars, fora, and consultations;</p> <p>(b) Provide administrative and technical support to the Board and NCS-SRD TWG;</p> <p>(c) Document and disseminate the highlights of the proceedings of the Board and NCS-SRD TWG meetings and activities;</p> <p>(d) Ensure that appropriate actions are taken on agreements reached during the Board and NCS-SRD TWG meetings and activities;</p> <p>(e) Submit monitoring and progress reports to the Board and NCS-SRD TWG and other oversight bodies;</p>	<p>(b) Facilitate the provision of administrative and logistics support to the Board and the NCIA;</p> <p>(c) Ensure that appropriate actions are taken on agreements reached during meetings/workshops;</p> <p>(d) Submit monitoring/progress reports to the Board through the NCIA and to other oversight bodies;</p> <p>(e) Work closely with the NCIA and the Working Groups;</p> <p>(f) Together with the NCIA Administrator, convene the members of each Working Group and conduct election for the Chair of the Working Groups;</p>	<p>a) Assist in the conduct of Board and NCS-SRD TWG meetings and workshops, write shops, seminars, fora, and consultations;</p> <p>b) Provide administrative and technical support to the Board and NCS-SRD TWG;</p> <p>c) Document and disseminate the highlights of the proceedings of the Board and NCS-SRD TWG meetings and activities;</p> <p>d) Ensure that appropriate actions are taken on agreements reached during the Board and NCS-SRD TWG meetings and activities;</p> <p>e) Submit monitoring and progress reports to the Board and NCS-SRD TWG and other oversight bodies;</p>	
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<p>(f) Follow up on the activities to be conducted by the three (3) NCS-SRD ETWGs and four (4) NCS-SRD CWGs, and ensure that the timelines for the activities are strictly followed;</p> <p>(g) Manage the database of the convergence areas in coordination with the CWG on knowledge management; and</p> <p>(h) Perform other functions as the Board may direct.</p> <p>There shall be a satellite secretariat office to be established in the rural development departments. Each satellite secretariat office shall be composed of staff from the offices of the respective permanent Alternate Board Representatives.</p>	<p>(g) Maintain effective and efficient data management system of the NCI.</p>	<p>f) Follow up on the activities to be conducted by the three (3) NCS-SRD ETWGs and four (4) NCS-SRD CWGs, and ensure that the timelines for the activities are strictly followed;</p> <p>g) Manage the database of the convergence areas in coordination with the CWG on knowledge management; and</p> <p>h) Perform other functions as the Board may direct.</p> <p>There shall be a satellite secretariat office to be established in the rural development departments. Each satellite secretariat office shall be composed of staff from the offices of the respective permanent Alternate Board Representatives.</p>	
<p align="center">Article Two Sub-National Level Administration</p>	<p align="center">Article Two Sub-National Level Administration</p>	<p align="center">Article Two Sub-National Level Administration</p>	
<p>SEC. 19 <i>Regional Convergence Strategy -Technical Working Group</i></p>	<p>SECTION 14. <i>Regional Convergence Initiative–Technical Working Group</i></p>	<p>SEC. 19. <i>Regional Convergence Strategy - Technical Working Group</i></p>	

<p>(RCS-TWG). Parallel to the NCS-SRD TWG, the RCS-TWG shall manage and supervise the programs, projects, and other related activities at the regional level.</p>	<p>(RCI-TWG). Parallel to the NCI-TWG, the RCI-TWG shall manage and supervise the programs, projects, and other related activities at the regional level. The RCI-TWG shall be the regional arm of the NCIA in carrying out its functions.</p>	<p>(RCS-TWG). – Parallel to the NCS-SRD TWG, the RCS-TWG shall manage and supervise the programs, projects, and other related activities at the regional level.</p>	
<p>SEC. 20. Duties and Responsibilities. - The duties and responsibilities of the RCS TWG are as follows:</p> <p>(a) Work closely with the other government line agencies and offices and with the Regional Development Council (RDC) and concerned Provincial Development Council (PDC) to ensure that the enhanced convergence strategy interventions are aligned with the regional development agenda and initiatives;</p> <p>(b) Facilitate complementation of efforts and resources for greater impact;</p> <p>(c) Coordinate and work closely with the Provincial LGUs in the implementation of the NCS-SRD plans, programs, projects, and other related activities. The Regional Directors of rural development departments may enter into an</p>	<p>SECTION 14 - A. Duties and Responsibilities.</p> <p>(a) Work closely with other government line agencies and offices and with the Regional Development Council (RDC) and concerned Provincial Development Council (PDC) to ensure that the enhanced convergence initiative interventions are aligned with the regional development agenda and initiatives;</p> <p>(b) Facilitate complementation of efforts and resources for greater impact;</p> <p>(c) Coordinate and work closely with the Provincial LGUs in the implementation of the NCI plans, programs, projects, and other related activities. The Regional Directors of DA, DAR, and DENR may enter into an agreement with</p>	<p>SEC. 20. Duties and Responsibilities. — The duties and responsibilities of the RCS- TWG are as follows:</p> <p>a) Work closely with the other government line agencies and offices and with the Regional Development Council (RDC) and concerned Provincial Development Council (PDC) to ensure that the enhanced convergence strategy interventions are aligned with the regional development agenda and initiatives;</p> <p>b) Facilitate complementation of efforts and resources for greater impact;</p> <p>c) Coordinate and work closely with the Provincial LGUs in the implementation of the NCS-SRD plans, programs, projects, and other related activities. The Regional Directors of rural development</p>	

<p>agreement with the Provincial Governor or LGU leagues, as necessary;</p> <p>(d) Meet monthly or when necessary, to discuss issues and problems related to the implementation of plans, programs and activities.</p>	<p>the Provincial Governor or LGU leagues, as necessary;</p> <p>(d) Meet monthly or as deemed necessary.</p>	<p>departments may enter into an agreement with the Provincial Governor or LGU leagues, as necessary;</p> <p>d) Meet monthly or when necessary, to discuss issues and problems related to the implementation of plans, programs and activities.</p>	
<p>SEC. 21. Composition of the RCS-TWG. -The RCS-TWG shall be composed of the following:</p> <p>(a) Regional Directors of the DA, DENR, DAR, AND DILG, one of whom maybe elected as the chairperson;</p> <p>(b) The three (3) other rural development department regional directors will act as co-chairpersons; and</p> <p>(c) Regional Focal Persons of the rural development departments and the Head of the RCS-TWG Secretariat as Members.</p>	<p>SECTION 14 - B. Composition of the RCI-TWG. The RCI-TWG shall be composed of:</p> <p>(a) DA, DAR or DENR Regional Director as Chairperson</p> <p>(b) Depending on the result of the election, the two latter directors will act as Co-Chairpersons</p> <p>(c) Regional Focal Persons for all the departments and Head RCI-TWG Secretariat as Members.</p>	<p>SEC. 21. Composition of the RCS-TWG. — The RCS-TWG shall be composed of the following:</p> <p>a) Regional Directors of the DA, DENR, DAR, AND DILG, one of whom maybe elected as the chairperson;</p> <p>b) The three (3) other rural development department regional directors will act as co-chairpersons; and</p> <p>c) Regional Focal Persons of the rural development departments and the Head of the RCS-TWG Secretariat as Members.</p>	

<p>The Chairperson of the RCS-TWG shall be a convergence champion and shall be voted upon by and among the Regional Directors of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Upon the organization of the TWG, a resolution attesting to the assumption of duties and functions shall be submitted to the NCS-SRD National Secretariat. If necessary, the membership of the RCS-TWG may be expanded to include representatives from the Provincial LGUs and other agencies.</p> <p>The RCS-Secretariat is composed of representatives from the regional offices of DA, DAR, DENR and DILG.</p> <p>The RCS Secretariat is headed by the Regional Focal Person. The Regional Focal Person and the members of the RCS Secretariat shall be designated by the Chairperson of the RCS-TWG.</p>	<p>The Chairperson of the RCI-TWG shall be a convergence champion and shall be decided by and among the Regional Directors of DA, DAR and DENR. Upon the completion of the RCI-TWG composition, a resolution to that effect shall be submitted to the NCI Secretariat. Membership of the RCI-TWG may be expanded to include representatives from the Provincial LGUs and other agencies as deemed necessary.</p> <p>The RCI-Secretariat shall be created and would be composed of representatives from the regional offices of DA, DAR, and DENR. The RCI Secretariat shall be headed by the Regional Focal Person. The Regional Focal Persons and the members of the RCI Secretariat shall be designated by the chairperson of RCI-TWG (from the agency where the Chairperson belongs).</p>	<p>The Chairperson of the RCS-TWG shall be a convergence champion and shall be voted upon by and among the Regional Directors of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Upon the organization of the TWG, a resolution attesting to the assumption of duties and functions shall be submitted to the NCS-SRD National Secretariat. If necessary, the membership of the RCS-TWG may be expanded to include representatives from the Provincial LGUs and other agencies.</p> <p>The RCS-Secretariat is composed of representatives from the regional offices of DA, DAR, DENR and DILG. The RCS Secretariat is headed by the Regional Focal Person. The Regional Focal Person and the members of the RCS Secretariat shall be designated by the Chairperson of the RCS-TWG.</p>	
<p>SEC. 22. Provincial Convergence Strategy Technical Working Group (PCS TWG). - The PCS-TWG is responsible for implementing the plans, programs, projects, and other related activities of the NCS-SRD at the provincial level in collaboration with RCS TWG. The PCS-TWG shall identify and determine appropriate</p>	<p>SECTION 15. Provincial Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group (PCI-TWG). The PCI-TWG shall be responsible in implementing plans, programs, projects, and other related activities of the NCI at their respective provinces in collaboration with RCI-TWG. The PCI-TWG shall identify or determine</p>	<p>SEC. 22. Provincial Convergence Strategy Technical Working Group (PCS-TWG). - The PCS-TWG is responsible for implementing the plans, programs, projects, and other related activities of the NHS-SRD at the provincial level in collaboration with RCS- TWG. The PCS-TWG shall identify and determine appropriate</p>	

<p>interventions, resources, and support services needed such as infrastructure, logistics, extension, inputs, lands, and institutional development for the implementation of the NCS plans and programs.</p> <p>The Provincial Governor shall chair the PCS-TWG and the Provincial Directors of the DAR, DENR and DILG shall act as Co-Chairpersons. The members of the PCS-TWG are the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO), Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO), Provincial Agriculture Officer (PAO), Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (PPDC), Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PG-ENRO), Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) of the DA and Provincial Interior and Local Government Officer (PILGO). The provincial LGU shall lead the interface mechanisms and the rural development departments shall provide the technical and operational support. Existing LGU mechanisms may be adopted to spearhead or manage the convergence initiatives at the LOU level.</p>	<p>appropriate interventions, resources, and support services needed such as, but not limited to infrastructure, logistics, extension, inputs, lands, and institutional development for the implementation of the NCI plans and programs.</p> <p>The Chairperson of the PCI-TWG shall be the Provincial Governor and the Provincial head of DAR and DENR shall be the Co-Chairpersons. The members of the PCI-TWG are the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO), Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO), Provincial Agriculture Officer (PAO), and Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (PPDC), and Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PG-ENRO).</p> <p>The respective interface mechanisms shall be LGU-led with DA, DAR, and DENR providing technical and operational support. Existing LGU mechanisms may be adopted to spearhead or manage the convergence initiatives at the LGU level.</p>	<p>interventions, resources, and support services needed such as infrastructure, logistics, extension, inputs, lands, and institutional development for the implementation of the NCS plans and programs.</p> <p>The Provincial Governor shall chair the PCS-TWG and the Provincial Directors of the DAR, DENR and DILG shall act as Co-Chairpersons. The members of the PCS-TWG are the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO), Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO), Provincial Agriculture Officer (PAO), Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (PPDC), Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PG-ENRO), Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) of the DA and Provincial Interior and Local Government Officer (PILGO). The provincial LGU shall lead the interface mechanisms and the rural development departments shall provide the technical and operational support. Existing LGU mechanisms may be adopted to spearhead or manage the convergence initiatives at the LGU level.</p>	
<p>SEC. 23. <i>Municipal Convergence Strategy Technical Working Group</i></p>	<p>SECTION 16. <i>Municipal Convergence Initiative Technical</i></p>	<p>SEC. 23. <i>Municipal Convergence Strategy Technical Group (MCS-</i></p>	

<p>(MCSTWG). - The MCS-TWG is responsible for implementing the plans, programs, projects, and other related activities of the NCS-SRD at the respective municipalities in collaboration with the PCS-TWG. The MCS-TWG shall identify and determine appropriate interventions, resources, and support services needed such as infrastructure, logistics, extension, inputs, lands, and institutional development for the implementation of the NCS-SRD plans and programs.</p> <p>The Chairperson of the MCS-TWG is headed by the Municipal Mayor and the Municipal Head of DAR, DENR and DILG are the Co-Chairpersons. The members of the MCS-TWG are the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO), City or Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Officer (C/MENRO), Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (MARO), Municipal Agriculture Officer (MAO), concerned Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC), Municipal Interior and Local Government Officer (MILGO) and a designated DA regional field office representative.</p> <p>The municipal or city LGU shall lead the interface mechanisms and the DA, DAR, DENR and DILG shall provide</p>	<p>Working Group (MCI-TWG). The MCI-TWG shall be responsible in implementing plans, programs, projects, and other related activities of the NCI at their respective municipalities in collaboration with the PCI-TWG. The MCI-TWG shall identify or determine appropriate interventions, resources, and support services needed such as, but not limited to, infrastructure, logistics, extension, inputs, lands, and institutional development for the implementation of the NCI plans and programs.</p> <p>The Chairperson of the MCI-TWG shall be headed by the Municipal / City Mayor. The Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (MARO) and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) shall act as Co-Chair. The members of the MCI-TWG are the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO), City/Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Officer (C/MENRO), Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (MARO), Municipal Agriculture Officer (MAO) and concerned City/Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (C/MPDC).</p> <p>The respective interface mechanisms shall be LGU-led with DA, DAR, and DENR providing technical and operational support. Existing LGU</p>	<p>TWG). — The MCS-TWG is responsible for implementing the plans, programs, projects, and other related activities of the NCS-SRD at the respective municipalities in collaboration with the PCS-TWG. The MCS-TWG shall identify and determine appropriate interventions, resources, and support services needed such as infrastructure, logistics, extension, inputs, lands, and institutional development for the implementation of the NCS-SRD plans and programs.</p> <p>The Chairperson of the MCS-TWG is headed by the Municipal Mayor and the Municipal Head of DAR, DENR and DILG are the Co-Chairpersons. The members of the MCS-TWG are the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO), City or Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Officer (C/MENRO), Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (MARO), Municipal Agriculture Officer (MAO), concerned Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC), Municipal Interior and Local Government Officer (MILGO) and a designated DA regional field office representative.</p> <p>The municipal or city LGU shall lead the interface mechanisms and the DA, DAR, DENR and DILG shall provide</p>	
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<p>the technical and operational support. Existing LGU mechanisms may be adopted to spearhead or manage the convergence initiatives at the LGU level.</p>	<p>mechanisms may be adopted to spearhead or manage the convergence initiatives at the LGU level.</p>	<p>the technical and operational support. Existing LGU mechanisms may be adopted to spearhead or manage the convergence initiatives at the LGU level.</p>	
<p>Article Three Monitoring and Evaluation</p>		<p>Article Three Monitoring and Evaluation</p>	
<p>SEC. 24. <i>Monitoring and Evaluation.</i> - A monitoring and evaluation system based on the performance indicators set by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall be developed and strictly implemented and managed. A regular reporting system shall be installed in an open and transparent manner in accordance with the Management for Development Results (MDR) principles aimed to help keep track of the progress and end result of the project implementation of the convergence area. The monitoring and evaluation report must identify and describe the gaps and issues experienced during the implementation of the NCS, the learnings on convergence as an approach to sustainable rural development, and the proposed policy recommendations.</p>		<p>SEC. 24. <i>Mentoring and Evaluation.</i> — A monitoring and evaluation system based on the performance indicators set by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall be developed and strictly implemented and managed. A regular reporting system shall be installed in an open and transparent manner in accordance with the Management for Development Results (MDR) principles aimed to help keep track of the progress and end result of the project implementation of the convergence area. The monitoring and evaluation report must identify and describe the gaps and issues experienced during the implementation of the NCS, the learnings on convergence as an approach to sustainable rural development, and the proposed policy recommendations.</p>	
	<p>Article Three Other National Government</p>		

	Agencies and Local Government Units		
	<p>SECTION 17. Scope and Nature of Support from Government Line Agencies and Offices. The NCIA shall work closely with other government line agencies and offices to ensure complementation and alignment of NCI interventions with that of other related agencies and offices. Conversely, all concerned National Government agencies/bodies shall render technical and administrative support if called upon by the NCIA relative to the implementation of the provisions of this Act.</p> <p>SECTION 18. Local Government Units. The Local Government Units which have the mandate to coordinate and manage local development shall take an active role in the implementation of an institutionalized convergence strategy.</p>		
CHAPTER V Final Provisions	CHAPTER VI TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS	CHAPTER V Final Provisions	
SEC. 25. Convening of NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office. - Within	SECTION 19. Convening of NCIA. Within thirty (30) days from the	SEC. 25. Convening of NCS-SGD National Secretariat Office. — Within	

<p>sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convene the NCS SRD National Secretariat Office. The current head of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat shall sit temporarily as Officer-in-Charge of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office until such time that a regular Executive Director is appointed.</p>	<p>effectively of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convene the NCIA. The current head of the Enhanced National Convergence Initiative Secretariat shall sit temporarily as Administrator and ex-officio member of the NCIA Executive Board until such time that a regular Administrator has been appointed by the President.</p>	<p>sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convene the NCS- SRD National Secretariat Office. The current head of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat shall sit temporarily as Officer-in-Charge of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office until such time that a regular Executive Director is appointed.</p>	
<p>SEC. 26. <i>Implementing Rules and Regulations.</i> - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretaries of the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG shall jointly issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.</p>	<p>SECTION 20. <i>Implementing Rules and Regulations.</i> The said rules and regulations shall be submitted to the Congressional Oversight on the National Convergence Initiative as created by the succeeding provision for approval.</p>	<p>SEC. 26. <i>Implementing Rules and Regulations.</i> - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretaries of the DA, DAR, DENR, and the DILG shall jointly issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.</p>	
	<p>SECTION 21. <i>Congressional Oversight Committee on the National Conversion Initiative.</i> There is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee composed of five members each from the Committee on Agriculture of the Senate of the Philippines and the Committee on Rural Development of the House of Representatives. The members from the Senate shall be appointed by the Senate President based on proportional representation of the parties or coalitions therein with</p>		

	<p>at least two (2) senators representing the minority. The members from the House of Representatives shall be appointed by the Speaker also based on proportional representation of the parties or coalitions therein with at least two (2) congressmen representing the minority.</p> <p>The oversight committee which shall function for a period of not more than five (5) years, shall have the power to review the implementing rules issued by NCIA within thirty (30) days from the promulgation of the said rules and oversee the implementation of this Act: Provided, That the Secretariat of the Oversight Committee shall be drawn from the existing Secretariat personnel of the committees comprising the oversight.</p> <p>Funding shall be taken from the appropriations of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.</p>		
	<p>SECTION 22. Effectivity of the Creation of the NCIA. Until such time that the NCIA has been organized and fully operational, the current operational set-up on the NCI as provided for under DA-DAR-DENR Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2010, and its relevant amendments, shall continue. Hiring,</p>		

	<p>separation, replacement, and appointment of personnel shall be in accordance with existing Civil Service rules and regulations.</p>		
<p>SEC. 27. Structure and Staffing Pattern. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCS Executive Board shall formulate and submit the NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office's proposed organizational structure and staffing pattern for final approval to the DBM.</p> <p>The DA shall assist in the preparation of the Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern to ensure that the NCS-SRD National Secretariat may effectively carry out its mandated functions under this Act.</p>	<p>SECTION 23. Structure and Staffing Pattern. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCIA Board Chairperson shall formulate and submit to the Congressional Oversight Committee for its review and approval, the NCIA's proposed organizational structure and staffing pattern. After such review and approval, the proposed organizational structure and staffing pattern of the NCIA shall be submitted to the President for final approval through the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) within ninety (90) days.</p>	<p>SEC. 27. Structure and Staffing Pattern. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCS Executive Board shall formulate and submit the NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office's proposed organizational structure and staffing pattern for final approval to the DBM.</p> <p>The DA shall assist in the preparation of the Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern to ensure that the NCS-SRD National Secretariat may effectively carry out its mandated functions under this Act.</p>	
<p>SEC. 28. Appropriations. - The funds necessary to carry out the implementation of the NCS-SRD shall be taken from the available funds of the rural development departments under the current General</p>	<p>SECTION 24. Appropriations. Funds necessary to carry out the implementation of the NCI shall be taken from the available funds of the three rural development agencies under the current General</p>	<p>SEC. 28. Appropriations. – The funds necessary to carry out the implementation of the NCS-SRD shall be taken from the available funds of the rural development departments under the current General</p>	

<p>Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the full operation of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office and the staggered implementation of NCS plans and programs shall be included in the respective annual budget of the rural development departments in the annual General Appropriations Act.</p> <p>Other sources of funds such as grants, donations, and other forms of assistance from donor agencies and other public or private entities may be tapped and facilitated by the NCS-SRD Executive Board to support the program, subject to the regular auditing guidelines and procedures. Cost-sharing or counter parting schemes among national government and LGUs are also encouraged to support the implementation of the NCS-SRD.</p>	<p>Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its staggered implementation shall be included in the respective annual budget of the aforementioned rural development agencies in the Annual General Appropriations Act.</p> <p>Other sources of funds such as grants, donations, and other forms of assistance from donor agencies and other public or private entities may be tapped and facilitated by NCI Board and/or the NCIA to support the program, subject to regular auditing guidelines and procedures. Cost-sharing or counter- parting schemes among national government and LGUs is also encouraged to support the implementation of the Convergence Initiative.</p>	<p>Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the full operation of the NCS-SRD National Secretariat Office and the staggered implementation of NCP plans and programs shall be included in the respective annual budget of the rural development departments in the annual General Appropriations Act.</p> <p>Other sources of funds such as grants, donations, and other forms of assistance from donor agencies and other public or private entities may be tapped and facilitated by the NCS-SRD Executive Board to support the program, subject to the regular auditing guidelines and procedures. Cost-sharing or counter parting schemes among national government and LGUs are also encouraged to support the implementation of the NCS-SRD.</p>	
<p>SEC. 29. Non-Impairment Clause. - Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or available to marginalized or basic sectors under existing laws including Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as "The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997," and Republic Act</p>	<p>SECTION 25. Non-Impairment Clause. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or available to marginalized or basic sectors under existing laws including but not limited to Republic Act Nos. 8371, 8550 and 6657.</p>	<p>SEC. 29. Non-Impairment Clause. — Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or available to marginalized or basic sectors under existing laws including Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as "The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997," and Republic Act No. 8550, as</p>	

As of 15 November 2023

<p>No. 8550, as amended, otherwise known as the "<i>Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.</i>"</p>		<p>amended, otherwise known as the "Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998."</p>	
<p>SEC. 30. <i>Separability Clause.</i> - If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions or parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.</p>	<p>SECTION 26. <i>Separability Clause.</i> If for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared or held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.</p>	<p>SEC. 30. <i>Separability Clause.</i> — If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions or parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.</p>	
<p>SEC. 31. <i>Repealing Clause.</i> - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are not consistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.</p>		<p>SEC. 31. <i>Repealing Clause.</i> — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are not consistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.</p>	
<p>SEC. 32. <i>Effectivity.</i> - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.</p> <p><i>Approved,</i></p>	<p>SECTION 27. <i>Effectivity Clause.</i> This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.</p> <p>Approved.</p>	<p>SEC. 32. <i>Effectivity.</i> — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the <i>Official Gazette</i> or in a newspaper of general circulation.</p> <p>Approved.</p>	