



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretaries**
Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change
Integrated Environmental Science and Supervising Undersecretary of the
River Basin Control Office

The Directors
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service
Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

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

The Officer-in-Charge
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

The Executive Directors
Manila Bay Coordinating Office
Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

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

DATE : 16 February 2023

The Committee on Climate Change of the House of Representatives will be holding a virtual Committee Meeting **on 22 February 2023 (Wednesday), 9:30 AM via zoom** to deliberate on the following:

- I. Consideration and approval of the Substitute Bill on the Consolidation of House Bills Numbered 3055 And 5083 or “An Act to Conserve, Protect, Restore, and Sustainably Manage Peatlands and its Resources to Enhance the Country’s Resilience to Climate Change, and For Other Purposes,” and its Committee Report
- II. Initial consideration of the following House Resolutions (H.R.):
 - a. H.R. No. 213, entitled: “Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a Multi-Actor Partnership on the Enhancement of Climate and Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (CDRFI) in the Philippines,” authored by Rep. Edgar M. Chatto

- b. H.R. No. 8, entitled: "Resolution for the Adoption of a People's Green New Deal for a Just and Green Economic Recovery," authored by Rep. Raoul Dannel A. Manuel

In this regard, we would like to request your **comments/recommendations** on the above-mentioned bills on **or before February 20, 2023, at 5 PM**. Kindly submit it via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph for the drafting of the position paper requested by the Committee.

Further, to be prepared for the upcoming Committee Meeting, we are inviting you or your representative for a consultative meeting to discuss the aforementioned bills on **February 20, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Social Hall, 2nd Floor, DENR Central Office**. Lastly, 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 invitation letter, agenda, copies of the bills and resolutions, and the Draft substitute bill from the Committee for your reference.

Your attendance is highly encouraged.

ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

February 15, 2023

HON. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA

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

Dear Sec. Loyzaga:

We wish to inform you that the **Committee on Climate Change** of the House of Representatives will hold a **REGULAR MEETING** via virtual conference through **Zoom** application with details indicated hereunder:

DATE/TIME	February 22, 2023 (Wednesday) 9:30 A.M.
ZOOM LOG-IN DETAILS	Link: https://zoom.us/j/95534069054?pwd=UVZNR08vVjZFRDJvV2xSTGpxc0xZQT09 Meeting ID: 955 3406 9054 Passcode: 268435
AGENDA	<p>I. Consideration and approval of the Substitute Bill on the Consolidation of House Bills Numbered 3055 And 5083 or "An Act to Conserve, Protect, Restore, and Sustainably Manage Peatlands and its Resources to Enhance the Country's Resilience to Climate Change, and For Other Purposes," and its Committee Report</p> <p>II. Initial consideration of the following House Resolutions (H.R.):</p> <p>a) H.R. No. 213, entitled: "Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a Multi-Actor Partnership on the Enhancement of Climate and Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (CDRFI) in the Philippines," authored by Rep. Edgar M. Chatto</p> <p>b) H.R. No. 8, entitled: "Resolution for the Adoption of a People's Green New Deal for a Just and Green Economic Recovery," authored by Rep. Raoul Dannel A. Manuel</p>

In line with this, we would like to invite you or your representative to a fruitful discussion and to share your valuable insights towards meaningful measure.

We have attached herewith the agenda, copies of H.B. Nos. 3055 and 5083, and its Substitute Bill, and copies of H.R. Nos. 213 and 8, for your easy reference. Your POSITION PAPER on the measures to be considered will be highly appreciated. May we request your good office to please email the requested document through committee.climatechange@house.gov.ph on or before February 20, 2023.

Should you need more information, please contact the Committee Secretary at 09277193534 or Ms. MeAnne Ordovez at 09154448595.

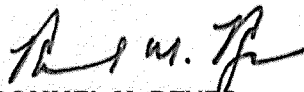
Thank you and we look forward to seeing and hearing from you at the meeting.

Very truly yours,

HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO

Chairperson

For the Chairperson:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Reyes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

ROMMEL M. REYES

Committee Secretary



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

REGULAR MEETING

22 February 2023, 9:30 AM
Virtual Conference through Zoom Application

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
- II. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MEMBERS, GUESTS, & RESOURCE PERSONS
- III. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2022 MEETING
- IV. OPENING REMARKS OF THE CHAIR
- V. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE **SUBSTITUTE BILL ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF HOUSE BILLS NUMBERED 3055 AND 5083 OR "AN ACT TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, RESTORE, AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGE PEATLANDS AND ITS RESOURCES TO ENHANCE THE COUNTRY'S RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"** AND ITS COMMITTEE REPORT
- VI. INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING HOUSE RESOLUTIONS (H.R.):
 - a) **H.R. NO. 213**, ENTITLED: "RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTI-ACTOR PARTNERSHIP ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK FINANCING AND INSURANCE (CDRFI) IN THE PHILIPPINES," AUTHORED BY REP. EDGAR M. CHATTO
 - b) **H.R. NO. 8**, ENTITLED: "RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF A PEOPLE'S GREEN NEW DEAL FOR A JUST AND GREEN ECONOMIC RECOVERY," AUTHORED BY REP. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL
- VII. OTHER MATTERS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

RESOURCE PERSONS

FOR SUBSTITUTE BILL ON H.B. NOS. 3055 & 5083:

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Climate Change Commission
- Department of Agrarian Reform
- Department of Agriculture
 - Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 - Biodiversity Management Bureau
 - Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
 - Forest Management Bureau
 - Land Management Bureau
 - Mines and Geosciences Bureau
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
 - Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)
 - Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD)
 - Bureau of Local Government Supervision (BLGS)
- Department of Public Works and Highways
- Department of Science and Technology
 - National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP)
 - Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
 - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)
- Department of Tourism
- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
- National Museum of the Philippines
- National Water Resources Board

LGUs

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

ACADEME

- Miriam College – Environmental Studies Institute
- University of the Philippines Los Baños - College of Forestry and Natural Resources

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS/NGOs

- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
- Foundations For Philippine Environment (FPE)
- Greenpeace Philippines
- HARIBON Foundation
- International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
- People for Peat/Wild Wild Pigs

FOR H.R. NOS. 213 & 8:

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Climate Change Commission
- Department of Agrarian Reform
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Budget Management
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 - National Solid Waste Management Commission
 - Mines and Geoscience Bureau
- Department of Finance
- Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
- Department of Information and Communications Technology
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Department of Labor and Employment
- Department of Public Works and Highways
- Department of Science and Technology
 - Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Transportation
- Insurance Commission
- Metropolitan Manila Development Authority
- National Economic and Development Authority

LGUs

- Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas
- League of Cities of the Philippines
- League of Provinces of the Philippines
- League of Municipalities of the Philippines
- Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines

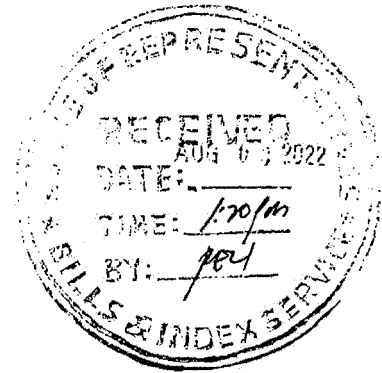
CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS/NGOs

- Aksyon Klima
- Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines (CEC-Phils)
- Greenpeace Philippines
- Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 3055



Introduced by Representative JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Act seeks to manage, conserve and protect all peatlands and peatland resources nationwide within public and private lands. Specifically, this measure seeks to guide all concerned national government agencies and local government units in adjusting their sectoral or local policies, plans and programs to be consistent with protection and conservation of peatlands. This will also greatly enhance current efforts to raise awareness on the importance of peatlands particularly in terms of climate change mitigation. Furthermore, this Bill will be the driving force to achieve the long-term vision of our Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 in ensuring ecological integrity by improving and strengthening peatlands conservation and management.

Peatlands are wetland ecosystems that are characterized by the accumulation of organic matter called peat which derives from dead and decaying plant material under high water saturation conditions (CC-GAP, 2005). They are one of the unique and most significant ecosystems which have key values for biodiversity conservation, water and climate regulation, and support for human welfare. They are the world's significant carbon sink but once drained and degraded, peatlands become susceptible to fire and become carbon source.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), peatlands cover an estimated area of 400 million hectares globally. This is equivalent to about 3 percent of the Earth's land surface.

In the Philippines, according to the DENR-BMB, citing the 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves, there are currently nine identified peatlands in the country. They are the Tan-ag Ilaya in Quezon Province, Sab-A in Leyte, San Teodoro and San Vicente Peatlands in Agusan del Sur, and the Agusan Marsh peatlands in Talacogon, Caimpugan, Novelle and Bayugan III, Kalingayan-Consuelo and Pag-Asa, having the total area of 17, 019.90 hectares.

There are other lesser known and relatively disturbed smaller areas of peatlands in Mindoro, Samar and Quezon.

To date, there is no single national policy that deals directly on peatlands, specifically on their conservation and sustainable use. Of the nine (9) peatlands mentioned above, only the Caimpugan Peat Swamp Forest in Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary is protected under the National Integrated Protected under the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act, as amended by Republic Act 11038 Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018.

As of 2019, a total of 24 possible peatlands areas all over the country had been reported, with 15 new records of peatlands added and facing threats of degradation.

The ASEAN Member States signed the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) on 10 June 2002, which aims to prevent, monitor, and mitigate land and forest fires to control transboundary haze pollution through concerted national efforts, regional and international cooperation. This Agreement was ratified by the Philippines on 1 February 2010. One of the concrete and collective actions under the AATHP Roadmap is specifically on the sustainable management of peatlands for peatland fire prevention. Moreover, under the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006-2020, the ASEAN Member States are committed to develop or strengthen policies and legislation to protect peatlands and reduce occurrence of peatland fires.

The Philippines, is also a signatory to the Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Ramsar Convention, which entered into force in the Philippines on November 8, 1994. As a Contracting Party, we are committed to work towards the adoption and legislation of a national policy that will protect wetlands, including peatlands. Recognizing the importance of peatlands, the Ramsar Convention also provides Contracting Parties with several guidance on global actions for peatland restoration, conservation and as criteria for identification of international significance through the Ramsar Site network.

Unlike any other wetland types, peatlands in the country were only documented starting in 2005. There is a fundamental lack of awareness on peatlands, its characteristics and appropriate management strategies for peatlands in all sectors, from local people to non-government organizations (NGOs) and government agencies. Peatlands have been a common target for agricultural development and palm oil plantations that drain and damage the features that make them globally-important carbon sinks. Since peatlands and their significance are poorly known, many of them were drained and converted to agriculture, and then lay abandoned after finding out too late that peatlands are unsuitable for planting rice. Peatland degradation did not just result to decline in biodiversity; many areas that were drained suffered from land subsidence and became fire prone.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reported that peatlands store 30 percent of global carbon, and when drained and damaged, they exacerbate climate change, emitting 2 gigatons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) every year, which accounts for almost 6 percent of all global greenhouse gas emissions.

A number of Non-Government Organizations like Society for the Conservation of the Philippine Wetlands, Wetlands International, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Forest Foundation Philippines, Conservation International -Philippines, LaksamBuhay Foundation Inc., Klima-Climate Change Center and notably GabayKalikasan join the fight to protect and save not only the Caimpugan Peatland in Agusan Marsh but all peatland resources nationwide.

My dear colleagues, I am thus seeking your help and support in this fight for our future and for the future of our descendants. The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES
2nd District of Bukidnon



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3055

Introduced by Representative JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES

**AN ACT TO CONSERVE, PROTECT AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGE
PEATLANDS AND ITS RESOURCES TO INCREASE THE COUNTRY'S RESILIENCE
TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*National Peatland and Peatland Resources Management, Conservation and Protection Act*”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote the conservation and sustainable development of peatland and peatland resources consistent with the principles of sustainable development, inclusive economic development, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management; while advancing the right to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the harmony and rhythm of nature.

SECTION 3. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to all peatland and peatland resources nationwide within public and private lands.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. - The following terms shall be construed to mean as:

- a.) *High Conservation Value* refers to the biological, ecological, social or cultural values of outstanding significance at the national, regional or global level or of critical importance at the local level;
- b.) *Land use planning* refers to the rational and judicious approach of allocating available land resources to different land - using activities, (e.g. agricultural, residential, industrial) and for different functions consistent with the overall development vision/goal of a particular locality;
- c.) *Peat* refers to dead and partially decomposed plant material that have accumulated under high water saturation or waterlogged conditions. Peat soil is defined using the definition of histosol (organic soil) which are soils with cumulative organic layer(s) comprising more than half of the upper 80cm of the soil surface containing 35% or more organic matter (35% or more loss on ignition) or 18% or more organic carbon;
- d.) *Peat swamp forest* refers to a type of peatland that has forest cover and can be found in certain areas in the tropical regions of the world including the Philippines;

- e.) *Peatlands* refers to wetland ecosystems characterized by the accumulation of peat at the surface. Major characteristics of peatlands are the presence of peat, and permanent water logging. Peatlands may have vegetation in the form of trees, shrubs, grasses, and mosses;
- f.) *Protected Area* refers to identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation;
- g.) *Riparian area or zone* refers to land that occurs along watercourses and water bodies and are composed of moist to saturated soils, water-loving plant species and their associated ecosystems. This may be found surrounding lakes, estuaries, streams and rivers;
- h.) *Subsidence* refers to the lowering or collapse of the ground level that results from draining water from peatlands and or due to fire incidence;
- i.) *Wetlands* refer to a wide variety of areas such as natural pools/ponds, springs, freshwater swamps/marshes, peatlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as estuaries, saltmarshes, mangroves, lagoons, intertidal flats and seagrass beds, and also coral reefs and other marine areas no deeper than six meters at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as dams, reservoirs, rice paddies, fish ponds, salt pans, and wastewater treatment ponds;
- j.) *Wise use* refers to the maintenance of the ecological character of peatlands, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development.

SECTION 5. Implementing and Monitoring Agencies. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Biodiversity Management Bureau, shall be the lead agency in the monitoring of overall implementation and compliance of this Act. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) through the Bureau of Local Government Supervision shall support in the implementation of this Act, in coordination with Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Department of Agrarian Reform, Bureau of Fire Protection -DILG, Bureau of Local Government Development – DILG, Department of Public Works and Highways, National Water Resources Board, National Museum, concerned DENR Offices, academe, and concerned Local Government Units for specific peatland areas, and concerned non-government organizations.

The DENR with the coordinating agencies shall exercise the following powers and functions within their mandates: formulate, implement and monitor policies, rules, ordinances, regulations, plans and programs; enter into partnership and engagements with interested partners; develop best practices on the wise use of peatland areas; communication education, public awareness; and convene regular meetings to update and share technical progress report to be shared among the coordinating agencies.

SECTION 6. Role of Local Government Units. – The municipal, city, or provincial Local Government having territorial jurisdiction over the peatland and its resources shall prioritize peatland for protection under the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS), as amended by RA 11038, or declared as critical habitat under the Wildlife Act, or as local conservation area or other effective area-based conservation measures through the ordinances of LGUs. They shall also include the protection and conservation of peatland and its resources to their respective Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and other plans in consultation with concerned agencies. They shall coordinate with the DENR and DILG in monitoring of peatland and its resources within their jurisdiction and in compliance of this Act.

SECTION 7. Integration and Mainstreaming of Peatland Protection and Sustainable Use.
- All government agencies and offices, and local government units (LGUs) shall integrate and mainstream peatland protection and sustainable use into their plans, policies, ordinances and rules and regulations, programs, projects, and development planning process. They shall also directly consult with the DENR and affected communities in the development and implementation of their plans, programs and projects within, or having impact, on peatlands.

SECTION 8. Development of National Peatland Conservation Program. – A National Peatland Conservation Program shall be developed by the DENR, in coordination with other concerned agencies, sectors, and stakeholders, within one year from the effectivity of this Act to provide direction, support and guidance to the local government units (LGU) and stakeholders in the development and implementation of their local peatland conservation programs. The National Peatland Conservation Program shall define national targets for the conservation of peatlands and the development of its national coordinating mechanism.

The Program shall include, but not limited to the following strategies:

- a.) Inventory, mapping, delineation, assessment and monitoring of peatlands. All peatlands in the country shall be inventoried and assessed. Peatland assessment including bio-capacity, carrying capacity, carbon storage and ecosystem services assessment and valuation of peatland ecosystems shall be conducted to measure the full extent of its value and guide agencies on its conservation and sustainable use;
- b.) Restoration and Rehabilitation of degraded peatlands;
- c.) Regulation against peatland drainage, conversion and reclamation, peat extraction and deliberate setting of fire within the peatland or immediately adjacent areas that may affect the peatland;
- d.) Enforcement of legal easement zones, dangers zones and other land use setbacks. All concerned government agencies and LGUs shall strictly implement land use setback provisions imposed by law;
- e.) Peat fire early warning systems, prevention, control and monitoring;
- f.) Research and Development;
- g.) Assessment of vulnerability to climate change and disaster risk management;
- h.) Peatland carbon stock assessment, accounting, verification and crediting;
- i.) Assessment and monitoring of greenhouse gas flux;
- j.) Knowledge management and peatland information system;
- k.) Implementation of soil and water conservation technologies;
- l.) Measures to address invasive alien species;
- m.) Establishment and promotion of peatland best management practices (including Public-Private Partnership);
- n.) Communication, education, participation, capacity-building and awareness program;
- o.) Collaboration with Indigenous and local communities in the management and wise use of the peatlands;

- p.) Integration of local and traditional ecological knowledge and practices with science-based knowledge systems; and,
- q.) Requiring environmental impact assessments for any development activity proposed within the peatland of adjacent areas or the catchment of the peatland which may potentially have a negative impact on the peatland.

SECTION 9. Land Classification of Peatland. – All areas which have been classified and released as agricultural land but that are currently or formerly may have been identified as peatland even if they have been subsequently degraded shall be reverted to either forest land or national park. The appropriate implementing agency shall immediately initiate the expropriation proceedings before the proper court under the existing law.

SECTION 10. Prohibited Acts.– In addition to acts or omissions already penalized by existing laws, the following offenses shall be punishable under this Act:

1. Drainage of peatlands for the following purposes:
 - a. Conventional agriculture development;
 - b. Illegal logging; or,
 - c. Transport and infrastructure, and other land use.
2. Forest clearance and degradation, such as:
 - a. Peatland conversion to agriculture, mining, residential, or any other kind of conversion;
 - b. Logging; or,
 - c. Fire.
3. Peatland deforestation and fires for the following purposes:
 - a. Land clearance;
 - b. Land claims and conflicts;
 - c. Resource extraction; or,
 - d. Accidental.

SECTION 11. Penal Provision. Violation under this Act or any rule or regulation pursuant to this Act, shall upon conviction, be punished with a fine not less than Two Hundred Thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months, or both, shall be imposed at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 12. Appropriations. – The amounts necessary to implement this Act during the first year of implementation shall be sourced from the DENR. Thereafter, such amounts necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – Within six (6) months from the date of this Act, the DENR, in close coordination with concerned agencies, shall prepare the IRR of this Act.

SECTION 14. Reporting on the Implementation of this Act. The Biodiversity Management Bureau in coordination with concerned agencies shall submit a report every three years to the President of the Philippines through the DENR Secretary on the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, any part or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

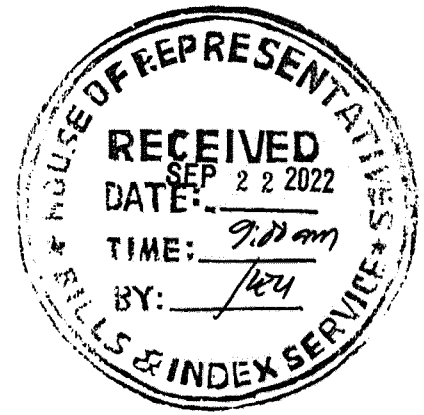
SECTION 17. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5083



Introduced by HON. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA and
HON. MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Act recognizes the ecological functions of healthy peatlands, specifically in terms of its contributions to mitigating the impacts of climate change and increasing community resilience to the more frequent and intense natural hazards brought about by the changing climate. It seeks to manage, conserve and protect all peatlands and peatland resources nationwide so as to ensure that these ecosystem benefits are provided and sustained for future generations.

Specifically, this measure will also heighten efforts in raising awareness on the importance of peatlands, particularly in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Furthermore, this Bill will be the driving force to achieve the long-term vision of our Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 in ensuring ecological integrity by improving and strengthening peatland conservation and management in the country. It will also ensure that the country can contribute to achieving global targets on biodiversity, forestry, combatting land degradation and desertification, and sustainable water use, as well as on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management.

Peatlands are wetland ecosystems that are characterized by the accumulation of organic matter called peat which is derived from dead and decaying plant material under high water saturation conditions (CC-GAP, 2005). They are unique natural ecosystems which have key values for biodiversity conservation, water and climate regulation, and support for human welfare, including as source of raw materials for livelihoods and health. If kept wet and intact, peatlands can be considered as one of the most valuable among all wetland and terrestrial ecosystems. They are the world's significant carbon sink. Once drained and degraded, however, peatlands become susceptible to fire and become source of carbon and green house gas emissions.

According to the DENR, about 20,000 hectares of peatlands have been recorded in the Philippines. There are confirmed peatlands in Tan-ag Ilaya in Quezon Province, Sab-a in Leyte, San Teodoro and San Vicente Peatlands in Agusan del Sur, and the Agusan Marsh peatlands in Talacogon, Caimpugan, Novele, Bayugan III, Kalingayan-Consuelo and Pag-asa. Other lesser known and relatively smaller areas of peatlands are in Mindoro, Samar and Quezon. The unexplored swamps and marshlands of Ligawasan are also suspected to contain considerable amount of peat.

Peatlands in the Philippines are considered relatively small compared to other countries in Southeast Asia such as in Malaysia and Indonesia. However, regardless of how small our peatlands are, their globally significant role in the storage and sequestration of carbon should not be ignored.

To date, the country do not have a law that deals directly on peatlands, nor particularly on their conservation and sustainable use. Of the nine (9) peatlands recorded in the 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves, only the Caimpugan Peat Swamp Forest in Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary is protected under the National Integrated Protected under the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act, as amended by Republic Act 11038 Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018. It is also the only remaining known intact peat swamp forest in the country.

The Philippines, being an ASEAN Member State (AMS), concur to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), under of which, is the sustainable management of peatlands for peatland fire prevention, as embodied in the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy. The APMS recommends that AMS should develop or strengthen policies and legislation to protect peatlands and reduce occurrence of peatland fires.

The Philippines, is also a signatory to the Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Ramsar Convention. Recognizing the importance of peatlands, the Ramsar Convention provides its Contracting Parties with several guidances on peatland restoration and conservation, and identifies peatlands as part of the criteria for identification of wetlands of international significance through the Ramsar Site network. One such Ramsar Site with peatland in the country is the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, which has more than 12,000 hectares of peatlands within and adjacent to its boundaries.

Due to the fundamental lack of awareness on peatlands, its characteristics and appropriate management strategies, peatlands have been a common target for agricultural development and oil palm plantations. This subsequently drains and damages the features that make them globally-important carbon sinks. Peatlands previously used for agricultural purposes now lay abandoned after finding out too late that these peatlands are unsuitable for planting rice. Peatland degradation did not just result to decline in biodiversity, many areas that were drained suffered from land subsidence and became fire prone.

This legislative measure seeks to guide all concerned national government agencies and local government units in adjusting their sectoral or local policies, plans and programs to be consistent with protection and conservation of peatlands. This Bill will be the driving force to achieve the long-term vision of our Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 in ensuring ecological integrity. This will also support the country in achieving our commitments to various international agreements, particularly to the Convention on Wetlands, UN Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Convention of Migratory Species, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The approval of this bill will ensure the protection, conservation, and wise use of all wetlands found in the Philippines, eventually contributing to the well-being of the present and future generations of Filipinos.


MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS
3rd District, North Cotabato


RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
Party-list Representative, TUCP

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5083

Introduced by HON. RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA and
HON. MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS

**AN ACT PROMOTING THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND
SUSTAINABLE USE OF PEATLANDS AND ITS RESOURCES, TO
ENHANCE CLIMATE RESILIENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “National Peatland and Peatland Resources Act of 2022”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote the conservation and sustainable development of peatland and peatland resources and enhance the resilience of the Filipino people towards climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management consistent with the principles of sustainable development, inclusive economic development, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation; while advancing the right to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the harmony and rhythm of nature.

SECTION 3. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to all peatland and peatland resources nationwide within public and private lands.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. - The following terms shall be construed to mean as:

- a. *Climate Change* refers to a change in climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period typically decades or longer, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.
- b. *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)* refers to the systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational

skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster. Prospective Disaster Risk Reduction and Management refers to risk reduction and management activities that address and seek to avoid the development of new or increased disaster risks, especially if risk reduction policies are not put in place.

- c. *High Conservation Value* refers to the biological, ecological, social or cultural values of outstanding significance at the national, regional or global level or of critical importance at the local level;
- d. *Land use planning* refers to the rational and judicious approach of allocating available land resources to different land - using activities, (e.g. agricultural, residential, industrial) and for different functions consistent with the overall development vision/goal of a particular locality;
- e. *Peat* refers to dead and partially decomposed plant material that have accumulated under high water saturation or waterlogged conditions. Peat soil is defined using the definition of histosol (organic soil) which are soils with cumulative organic layer(s) comprising more than half of the upper 80cm of the soil surface containing 35% or more organic matter (35% or more loss on ignition) or 18% or more organic carbon;
- f. *Peat swamp forest* refers to a type of peatland that has forest cover and can be found in certain areas in the tropical regions of the world including the Philippines;
- g. *Peatlands* refers to wetland ecosystems characterized by the accumulation of peat at the surface and subsurface of the soil. Major characteristics of peatlands are the presence of peat, and permanent water logging. Peatlands may have vegetation in the form of trees, shrubs, grasses, and mosses;
- h. *Protected Area* refers to identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation;
- i. *Riparian area or zone* refers to land that occurs along watercourses and water bodies and are composed of moist to saturated soils, water-loving plant species and their associated ecosystems. This may be found surrounding lakes, or along estuaries, streams and rivers and coasts;
- j. *Subsidence* refers to the lowering or collapse of the ground level that results from draining water from peatlands and/or due to fire incidence;
- k. *Wetlands* refer to a wide variety of areas such as natural pools/ponds, springs, freshwater swamps/marshes, peatlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as estuaries, saltmarshes, mangroves, lagoons, intertidal flats and seagrass beds, and also coral reefs and other marine areas no deeper than six meters at low tide, as well as human-made

wetlands such as dams, reservoirs, rice paddies, fish ponds, saltpans, and wastewater treatment ponds;

1. *Wise use* refers to the maintenance of the ecological character of peatlands, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development.

SECTION 5. Implementing and Monitoring Agencies. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Biodiversity Management Bureau, shall be the lead agency in monitoring of overall implementation and compliance with this Act. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) through the Bureau of Local Government Supervision shall support in the implementation of this Act, in coordination with Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Department of Agrarian Reform, Bureau of Fire Protection - DILG, Bureau of Local Government Development – DILG, Department of Public Works and Highway, National Water Resources Board, National Museum, concerned DENR Offices, academe, and concerned Local Government Units for specific peatland areas, and concerned non-government organizations.

The DENR with the coordinating agencies shall exercise the following powers and functions within their mandates: formulate, implement and monitor policies, rules, ordinances regulations, plans and programs; enter into partnership and engagements with interested partners; develop best practices on the wise use of peatland areas; communication education public awareness; and convene regular meetings to update and share technical progress report to be shared among the coordinating agencies

SECTION 6. Role of Local Government Units. – The municipal, city, or provincial Local Government having territorial jurisdiction over the peatland and its resources shall prioritize peatland for protection under the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS), as amended by RA 11038, or declared as critical habitat under the Wildlife Act, or as local conservation area or other effective area-based conservation measures through the ordinances of LGUs. They shall also include the protection and conservation of peatland and its resources to their respective Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans (LDRRMPs), Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans (LCCAPs) and other plans in consultation with concerned agencies. They shall coordinate with the DENR and DILG in monitoring of peatland and its resources within their jurisdiction and in compliance of this Act.

SECTION 7. Integration and Mainstreaming of Peatland Protection and Sustainable Use. - All government agencies and offices, and local government units (LGUs) shall integrate and mainstream peatland protection and sustainable use into their plans, policies, ordinances and rules and regulations, programs, projects, and development planning processes. Peatland conservation targets shall be identified in all plans related to biodiversity, forestry, land degradation, climate change and disaster risk reduction and management, as applicable. Concerned local government units shall also directly consult with the DENR and affected communities in the development and

implementation of their plans, programs and projects within, or having impact, on peatlands.

SECTION 8. Development of a National Peatland Conservation Program. – A National Peatland Conservation Program shall be developed by the DENR, in coordination with other concerned agencies, sectors, and stakeholders, within one year from the effectivity of this Act to provide direction, support and guidance to the local government units (LGU) and stakeholders in the development and implementation of their local peatland conservation programs. The National Peatland Conservation Program shall define national targets for the conservation of peatlands and the development of its national coordinating mechanism.

The Program shall include, but not be limited to the following strategies:

1. Inventory, mapping, delineation, assessment and monitoring of peatlands. All peatlands in the country shall be inventoried and assessed. Peatland assessment including bio-capacity, carrying capacity, carbon storage and ecosystem services assessment and valuation of peatland ecosystems shall be conducted to measure the full extent of its value and guide agencies on its conservation and sustainable use.
2. Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands. Nature-based solutions shall be primarily employed in the restoration of the ecosystem services lost from peatland degradation.
3. Regulation against peatland drainage, conversion and reclamation, peat extraction and deliberate setting of fire within the peatland or immediately adjacent areas that may affect the peatland
4. Enforcement of legal easement zones, dangers zones and other land use setbacks. All concerned government agencies and LGUs shall strictly implement land use setback provisions imposed by law.
5. Peat fire early warning systems, prevention, control and monitoring.
6. Research, development, and extension. Extensive researches that will determine the value of peatlands and peatland resources as well as best practices that will sustain these values shall be encouraged. The use of innovative technologies on sustainable peatland management and practices on peatland ecosystem-based adaptation shall also be promoted and made accessible particularly to vulnerable communities.
7. Assessment of vulnerability to climate change and disaster risk management
8. Peatland carbon stock assessment, accounting, verification and crediting. The nationwide assessment of carbon stocks shall be completed three (3) years after the completion of a national peatland inventory.

9. Assessment and monitoring of greenhouse gas flux. Results of nationwide assess met of GHG fluxes from peatlands shall be contributed to the biennial update reports (BUR) submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
10. Knowledge management and peatland information system
11. Implementation of soil and water conservation technologies
12. Measures to address invasive alien species
13. Establishment and promotion of peatland best management practices (including Public-Private Partnership)
14. Communication, education, participation, capacity-building and awareness program
15. Collaboration with Indigenous and local communities in the management and wise use of the peatlands
16. Integration of local and traditional ecological knowledge and practices with science-based knowledge systems
17. Requiring environmental impact assessments for any development activity proposed within the peatland of adjacent areas or the catchment of the peatland which may potentially have a negative impact on the peatland

SECTION 9. Land Classification of Peatland. – All areas which have been classified and released as agricultural land but that are currently or formerly may have been identified as peatland even if they have been subsequently degraded shall be reverted to either forest land or protected area The appropriate implementing agency shall immediately initiate the expropriation proceedings before the proper court under the existing law.

SECTION 10. Prohibited acts. (c/o proponent. Suggestion to include intentional draining and conversion to unsustainable agriculture, deliberate setting of fire, mining or extraction of peat soil, unpermitted construction of permanent structures as the key prohibited acts. Other prohibited acts are provided under the NIPAS/ENIPAS Act, Wildlife Act, Water Code and Clean Water Act, as applicable)

SECTION 11. Reporting Responsibility. - The DENR Regional Executive Director, under whose jurisdiction the peatland is located, shall submit an annual accomplishment report on their peatlands to the Secretary of the DENR through the BMB. The report shall also include the conditions and benefits of the biological resources and ecosystem services of the peatland to be submitted by the RED, through channels, to the Secretary of the DENR every five (5) years. Consequently, the BMB shall likewise prepare a report on the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Protection and Sustainable Use of Philippine Peatlands (NAPP) every five (5) years and shall submit the same to the President. The country report on the status of peatlands

shall also inform the updating of national action plans on biodiversity, forestry, land degradation, climate change and disaster risk reduction and management, among others.

SECTION 12. Appropriations. – The amounts necessary to implement this Act during the first year of implementation shall be sourced from the DENR. Thereafter, such amounts necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – The DENR, in close coordination with concerned agencies, shall, within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, issue rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions hereof.

SECTION 14. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, any part or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 15. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 16. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 213



Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTI-ACTOR
PARTNERSHIP ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF CLIMATE AND DISASTER
RISK FINANCING AND INSURANCE (CDRFI) IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 reports that the Philippines is the fourth most affected country in terms of losses incurred from the impacts of extreme episodic climate events in the period of 2000-2019.

WHEREAS, the Philippines is highly vulnerable to impacts of climate change which severely affect its environment, agriculture, food security, health sector, disaster risk reduction and mitigation as well as the economy as a whole.

WHEREAS, the Sixth Assessment Report for 2021 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that while the number of tropical cyclones in the Philippines may not increase, their intensity will certainly increase.

WHEREAS, several other studies have shown that slow-onset events (SOE) manifest in the Philippines such as increasing trends in sea level rise, sea surface temperature, and extreme event occurrences are consistent with the increasing global trends.

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance (DOF) has indicated that the Philippines is expected to incur PHP 177 Billion (USD 3.6 Billion) per year in losses to public and private assets due to natural disasters, including typhoons. Subsequently, in the next 50 years, the country has a 40% chance of experiencing a loss exceeding PHP 989 Billion, and a 20% chance of experiencing a loss exceeding PHP 1,525 Billion.

WHEREAS, Climate and Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (CDRFI) is an innovative and viable mechanism that a vulnerable country, such as the Philippines, can look into to ensure that financial shocks of damages and losses from rapid and slow onset impacts are dealt with effectively.

WHEREAS, CDRFI creates the space to minimize and respond to the impacts of disasters and to build back better, by ensuring that necessary resources are available to respond to and recover from potential losses.

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes the country's need for CDRFI, in order to:

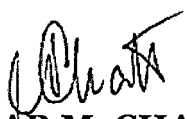
1. maintain and enhance socio-economic resilience and human development,
2. strengthen national productivity, and
3. reduce pressure on public spending ex post disaster to maintain fiscal stability and financial stability

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives enacted Republic Act No. 9729 or the "Climate Change Act of 2009", as amended by Republic Act No.10174 or the "People's Survival Fund Law", declaring it a State Policy "*to systematically integrate the concept of climate change in various phases of policy formulation, development plans, poverty reduction strategies and other development tools and techniques by all agencies and instrumentalities of the government*", as also indicated in House Resolution No. 418 of the 18th Congress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED TO EXPRESS, the sense of the House of Representatives, to strongly support the establishment of a Multi Actor Partnership (MAP) that would initiate the necessary discussions and exchange of ideas that would allow understanding and access of CDRFI. MAP would include representatives from the government – both Executive and Legislative branches – and attached agencies, local government units at the provincial, municipal/city, and barangay levels, private sector, insurance providers, and non-government actors such as cooperatives, as well as civil society and people's organizations.

RESOLVED FINALLY, the House of Representatives, in its collective efforts to complement MAP, will pursue the formulation of sound policies related to the allocation of resources, measuring effectiveness, and easing of access to CDRFI.

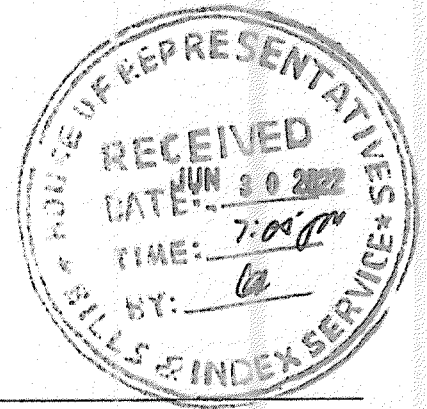
Adopted,


EDGAR M. CHATTO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8



Introduced by
KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Raoul Dannel A. Manuel

RESOLUTION
FOR THE ADOPTION OF A PEOPLE'S GREEN NEW DEAL FOR A JUST AND GREEN
ECONOMIC RECOVERY

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall "ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty" through its policies (Art. II, Sec. 9), "promote social justice in all phases of national development," (Art. II, Sec. 10), and "protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature" (Art. II, Sec. 16);

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9729, or the Climate Change Act, as amended, declares that it is State policy "to systematically integrate the concept of climate change in various phases of policy formulation, development plans, poverty reduction strategies and other development tools and techniques by all agencies and instrumentalities of the government";

WHEREAS, Section 18 of the same law mandates all relevant government agencies and local government units to "allocate from their annual appropriations adequate funds for the formulation, development and implementation, including training, capacity building and direct intervention, of their respective climate change programs and plans";

WHEREAS, on November 26, 2020, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution No. 1377 to declare a Climate and Environmental Emergency, calling for the mobilization of government agencies and instrumentalities and local government units towards the effective implementation of environmental, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management laws;

WHEREAS, 197 countries, including the Philippines, are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), whose ultimate objective is to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system" and "should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate

change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner”;

WHEREAS, the UN has declared that we have less than a decade left¹ to prevent irreversible damage from a climate crisis that threatens 100-400 million people with hunger and 1-2 billion people with water scarcity globally;²

WHEREAS, the UNHCR has declared that human rights cannot be enjoyed without a safe, clean and healthy environment, and that sustainable environmental governance cannot exist without the establishment of and respect for human rights;³

WHEREAS, the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has established that some impacts such as sea level rise are already irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years;⁴

WHEREAS, the Philippines in the past four years consistently ranked among the worst nations in terms of air pollution mortality,⁵ climate vulnerability,⁶ and marine plastics pollution;⁷

WHEREAS, natural extreme events and disasters from 2010-2019 in the Philippines have affected 22.1 million families and 103.1 million persons (including those affected multiple times) with 13,577 Filipinos dead or missing, 44,994 injured, and Php463 billion in damages especially of agriculture and infrastructure but also 5.9 million homes;⁸

WHEREAS, the Philippines has lost over Php3.28 trillion worth of sovereign natural resources,^{9,10,11,12} and at least 186 environmental defenders have been killed in the past 6 years trying to protect our lands and environment.¹³

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reports that more than 130 of the country's 142 critical watersheds desperately need immediate protection and rehabilitation;¹⁴

WHEREAS, environmentally destructive projects continue to be promoted such as large dam¹⁵, reclamation¹⁶ and power¹⁷ projects including 8.2 gigawatts to be generated by greenfield coal power plants;¹⁸

¹ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sgsm12181.doc.htm>

² https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/20190618-un-press-climate-change-a_brc_4_1_30.pdf

³ <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/what-we-do/advancing-environmental-rights/what>

⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/08/wg1-20210808.pdf>

⁵ <https://earthjournal.net/stories/beyond-lockdown-can-the-philippines-sustain-low-en-pollution-levels>

⁶ <https://germanwatch.org/press/germanwatch.org/files/2020-01/20200108-10.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/05/15/1824813/philippines-3rd-largest-contributor-ocean-plastic>

⁸ <https://psa.gov.ph/content/damages-due-natural-extreme-events-and-disasters-amounts-6-phil-683-billion>

⁹ <https://openinquirer.net/122587/nature-and-its-defenders-under-attack>

¹⁰ <https://rmb.com.ph/2021/07/07/philizes-50-b-revenue-to-forest-into-trade-but-eggst-economis-animal-extinction>

¹¹ <https://mgp.gov.ph/2015-05-13-01-41-58/2015-05-13-01-47-31/industry-at-a-glance>

¹² <https://news.abc-cbn.com/news/04/11/21/p13-bilan-kasas-daktyo-1-coral-reefs-wast-phil-sea>

¹³ <https://www.budafat.com/2021/06/01/4-stories-4m-years-deadbeat-for-environmental-defenders/>

¹⁴ <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/09/denr-chief-warns-phil-critical-watersheds-need-immediate-protection-rehabilitation/>

¹⁵ <https://rap.philippines.com/news/2021/09/31/ewig-Dam-construction-Administrative-Order-32.html>

¹⁶ <https://manilatoday.net/en/asia/asia-environment-philippines-no-place-for-post-pandemic-philippines/>

¹⁷ <https://yocap.org/2021/03/20/march-19-memorempyprimises-ghg-climate-18th/>

¹⁸ www.burkholderinc.com/2020-edvo-ete-csfb-for-ban-coal-fired-plants-in-ward-10-pending-projects/

WHEREAS, over half of the fuel country's total final energy consumption is accounted for by dirty oil and coal which are, moreover, heavily imported with volatile and oftentimes high global prices at the expense of domestic energy security and self-sufficiency;¹⁹

WHEREAS, the Philippines' GHG emissions are in the top 25% of low- and middle-income countries with energy sector emissions seen to quadruple and transport sector emissions seen to double by 2030;²⁰

WHEREAS, the Philippines simultaneously faces a social and economic crisis, where:

- a) Relatively rapid economic growth since the 2000s started to slow even before the pandemic, and is on an even lower trajectory because of the protracted lockdowns and economic scarring upon COVID-19;
- b) The last four decades have seen the share of agriculture in the economy fall to historic lows and that of manufacturing to levels not seen since the early 1950s, with the country now a service economy more than a producing economy;
- c) Correspondingly, annual average net employment creation has fallen to its lowest in six administrations and nearly four decades resulting in record millions of unemployed Filipinos (if unemployment is defined consistently for comparability with statistics of previous decades);
- d) Seven out of ten jobs or the overwhelming majority of employment in the tens of millions is in merely low-paying irregular work or low-earning self-employment, with domestic jobs prospects so thin that millions are forced overseas to find Work;
- e) Family incomes are so low that three out of four Filipino households do not have any savings, and four out of five do not have any financial assets nor even simple bank deposit accounts;
- f) Real wages have stagnated for at least a decade despite increasing labor productivity; and
- g) Inequality is severe with the richest 1% of the population owning 40% of the nation's wealth or as much as the poorest 80% of Filipinos, with the greatest concentration in the hands of just some 3,000 billionaires

WHEREAS, the climate, social and economic crises disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable the most amounting to some 18 million Filipino families or 80 million Filipinos;

WHEREAS, large-scale and sustained public investments for mitigating climate change, strengthening climate change adaptation and resilience, and structural economic

transformation for sustainable broad-based development will expand employment opportunities, especially for the poor, and contribute to achieving inclusive growth;

WHEREAS, the government realigned hundreds of billions of pesos for COVID-19 response under Bayanihan 1 (RA 11469) and Bayanihan 2 (RA 11494) and can potentially mobilize over a trillion pesos in public and private finance for economic stimulus²¹ yet spent zero²² on green recovery and just transition needs, such as sustainable agriculture and fisheries, biodiversity conservation, and renewable energy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that there is an urgency to craft and adopt a People's Green New Deal for a just and green economic recovery and a historic break from systemic crises and injustices;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the People's Green New Deal is needed for coherent Executive and Legislative actions that link short-term COVID-19 crisis responses for rapid recovery to long-term strategic goals of mitigating climate change, strengthening climate change adaptation and resilience, and structural economic transformation for sustainable broad-based development;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that —

- I. The objectives of the People's Green New Deal are to:
 - A. Stimulate rapid economic recovery;
 - B. Create millions of decent jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all Filipinos where the:
 1. Unemployment rate is reduced to 2-3%;
 2. Underemployment rate is reduced to 8-10%; and
 3. Share of irregular workers and self-employed is reduced to 33% of total Employment;
 - C. Double the incomes of the poorest 20% of families and eliminate extreme poverty;
 - D. Develop sustainable agriculture and national industry using environmentally-sound production technologies and methods where:
 1. Agricultural productivity and incomes especially of small-scale farmers, fisherfolk and other rural folk are at least doubled, and every rural producer has secure access or a claim to land, fisheries, and other productive resources;

¹⁹ https://www.doe.gov.ph/sites/default/files/pdf/energy_statistics/doe-pes-kes-2020.pdf

²⁰ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/16543/787980WPOP13010e0Change0Philippines.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

²¹ <https://www.ibon.org/ph-has-the-money-for-phpt-6-trillion-stimulus/>

²² <https://www.bworldonline.com/phl-not-investing-enough-in-green-stimulus-in>

2. Majority of food output is under production systems that are sustainable, contribute to maintaining ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters; and

3. The share of manufacturing in the economy is increased to 35-40%, with at least a doubling of the share of production accounted for by Filipino enterprises, and its share in employment increased to 15-20%.

E. Achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a just economic recovery and transition for all communities and workers with, among others:

1. CO₂ emissions reduced by 144.4 million tons per year through renewable energy projects;

2. Renewable energy share in total installed capacity will be at least 42% by 2030, exceeding the current commitment to achieve 35%;

3. Majority of total final energy consumption coming from renewable energy with all Filipinos having access to affordable and reliable Electricity.

4. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into national and local planning Processes;

5. Strengthening law enforcement and environmental defenders in and around forest, marine and other natural habitats and prosecuting Offenders;

6. Significantly reducing sedimentation from poorly-planned land-based activities, overexploitation of fisheries stocks, pollution from aquaculture activities, and oil spill impacts;

7. Restoring or rehabilitating degraded ecosystems and habitats using ecologically-based and appropriate site-specific technology;

8. Providing biodiversity-friendly livelihood opportunities to the local population and increasing awareness of various stakeholders;

9. Recognizing the contribution of IPs, women, youth, communities and LGUs to biodiversity conservation and building the capacities of local Stakeholders;

10. Strengthening conservation research and expertise including undertaking research on priority areas of concern; and

11. Adopting existing technologies and developing new ones to reduce utilization of biodiversity resources.

F. Develop sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture, fisheries, and non-timber forest production with an emphasis on healthy food by:

1. Free distribution of land to farmers and providing sufficient agricultural support services including:

- i. Affordable credit under an alternative collateral system;
- ii. Production support, irrigation and post-harvest facilities, market access, and market price guarantees; and
- iii. Research and extension services on sustainable farming Technology;

2. Promoting the shift to agroecological practices by: increasing the number of communities practicing heritage agriculture and conservation programs that sustain traditional varieties; increasing the number of in-situ and ex-situ sites that conserve and propagate diverse indigenous species and varieties; improving farms as local carbon sinks; integrating agrobiodiversity concerns protected areas, conservation areas, and local programs; and improving capacities of local stakeholders;

3. Promoting cooperativized land cultivation and fisheries management areas;

4. Implementing a moratorium on agricultural land use conversions to commercial, residential, industrial or other uses, and devote the remaining agricultural lands of the country to food production;

5. Regulating agricultural imports to fill domestic supply shortfalls but without compromising local production;

6. Developing the rice industry by providing collateral-free socialized credit, irrigation facilities, post-harvest facilities, and a palay procurement program, and repealing the Rice Tariffication Law (RA 11203); and

7. Developing the meat, poultry, dairy, and other livestock industries particularly by small-holder farmers and backyard raisers.

G. Develop Filipino industries to strengthen the domestic economy in ways that ensure improvements in human well-being and social equity while reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities by:

substantially

1. Establishing a multi-sectoral National Industrialization Council (NIC) with representatives from the government, Filipino industrialists,

MSMEs, labor unions, people's organizations, academe and other civil society groups to chart the strategic direction of developing sustainable Filipino industrial enterprises;

2. Re-orienting national economy policy towards achieving long-term sustainable national industrialization where the country produces consumer, intermediate and capital goods as much as is economically and technologically feasible but in a progressively expanding manner;

3. Ensuring the protection of the environment through constant improvement of the environmental performance of all industries existing and to be developed in terms of greater resource and energy efficiency, lower material intensity, and reduced emissions and pollution;

4. Raising the level of Filipino science and technology, increasing productivity, dynamism and domestic value-added, expanding domestic demand, and integrating regional production and markets into one national production system;

5. Promoting a culture of economic patriotism with a Buy Filipino, Build Filipino campaign encouraging Filipino consumers and producers to work together in building the national economy;

6. Giving priority to Filipino-made products in government procurement as feasible and in a progressively expanding manner;

7. Reviewing all policies giving fiscal and non-fiscal incentives and undue advantage to foreign locators and corporations for the purpose of calibrated amendment, suspension or termination as necessary to increase their contribution to national industrial development;

8. Reviewing all international trade and investment agreements for the purpose of calibrated amendment, suspension, or termination as necessary and conducive for national industrialization and development;

9. Creating an MSMEs for National Industrialization Program to encourage the continued development of domestic industries and a National Industrialization Investment and Financing Program to generate and mobilize resources for investing in domestic enterprises; and

10. Supporting Filipino enterprises and contributing to global innovations in, among others: solar, wind, hydropower energy and other environmental goods and services; transportation equipment and services; shipping and shipbuilding; iron and steel; and pharmaceuticals (including vaccines), medical supplies and equipment.

H. Implement programs and policies to accelerate the transition to clean renewable energy sources and away from fossil fuels towards national energy resiliency and self-sufficiency by:

1. Giving support and incentives to more widespread adoption of solar, wind, and hydroelectric technologies especially in labor-intensive, community-based and community-friendly projects;

2. Supporting community-led energy solutions for renewable energy development by:

i. Increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard with Incentives for Solar PV plants to the target of 100% renewable energy production for the whole country in ten years.

ii. Establishing the Solar Energy Development Center to: promote the use of solar energy; conduct research on solar energy technologies including its development and introduction to the market; guide implementation of the government's program to allocate, distribute, and sell solar energy; and perform such functions related to solar energy development in the interest of the common public.

iii. Providing soft loans and other incentives for the purchase and installation of small solar power systems for homeowners and MSMEs+;

iv. Providing micro solar systems to all indigent households;

v. Providing solar energy systems to schools in far-flung areas;

vi. Facilitating the establishment of peer-to-peer blockchain microgrids in all barangays to facilitate energy decentralization and democratization;

vii. Ensuring that all government agencies will be powered fully by solar energy systems in their respective offices and buildings in 10 Years;

3. Giving support and incentives to the manufacture, assembly, operation and maintenance of Filipino solar, wind, hydroelectric and geothermal power technologies; and

4. Reviewing the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA), Renewable Energy Act of 2008, and other relevant laws and issuances to identify the reasons for slow progress in delivering affordable electricity, providing efficient services, and shifting to renewables, to ensure that their respective provisions are harmonized and consistent with declared economic and environmental objectives, and to ensure that they are responsive to changing conditions and evolving priorities.

I. Implement programs and policies to accelerate the transition to low-carbon

public mass transport that is safe, affordable and accessible by:

1. Investing in and expanding the public mass transport system while reducing the disproportionately high share of private motorized vehicles in urban transport modes;
2. Creating alternative environmentally-friendly modes of mobility and transportation including but not limited to pathways, walking lanes, bike lanes, footbridges, busways and other transport infrastructure;
3. Creating a national mass transport industry with state support and incentives for the manufacture, assembly, operation and maintenance of cleaner and more fuel-efficient mass transport equipment and services which include, but are not limited to, traditional jeepneys, buses, railways, bicycles, ferries, and other modes of public transportation, including non-motorized modes of transport; and
4. Programming the transition to more sustainable mass transport fuels and technologies with substantial and sufficient subsidies to prevent economic distress for any affected existing transport providers.

J. Scale up community-level zero waste management models and clean treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for healthcare waste (such as microwave and autoclave technologies) by:

1. Allocating subsidies among city and municipal LGUs on a per capita basis to deal with the plastic pollution crisis;
2. Redesigning and reestablishing Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in every barangay to increase efficiency in operations;
3. Establishing special collection schemes for compostable waste and facilities for processing and conversion to usable fertilizer in adherence to the transition to localized agroecological food sovereignty;
4. Increasing salaries, benefits and bonuses of waste management personnel;
5. Directly incentivizing zero-waste business and research initiatives at the municipal level;
6. Conducting positive reinforcement schemes, educational programs, and media campaigns on ecological solid waste management; and
7. Establish special treatment and disposal facilities using cleaner technologies in every municipality.

K. Expand environmental and climate education to inculcate a culture of care for nature and active citizenship to resolve the planetary crises by:

1. Developing ecological consciousness through the educational system, mass media, social media, and other information channels;
2. Informing public and private sector stakeholders in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, alternative energy, freshwater, oceanography, environmental sciences, and coastal services about long-term climate projections and impacts, and strengthen capacities for appropriate response strategies;

3. Promoting understanding of climate change issues, encouraging changes in attitudes and behaviors to put our world on a more sustainable development path, and building a new generation of ecologically conscious citizens especially among the youth;
4. Developing a policy-relevant, action-oriented research program on the social, human, ethical and gender dimensions of climate change to improve the design and implementation of climate change adaptation actions and to improve understanding of gender equality issues related to climate change;
5. Developing a renewable energy education and training program to spread knowledge and to promote national and regional training centers of excellence; and
6. Establishing a climate change resources e-library for the capacity-building of community-based climate change adaptation strategies.

L. Fast track legislation of policy reforms founded on a 'Health in All Policies' framework and on the Philippine Greenprint including: National Land Use Bill; Sustainable Forest Management Bill; Philippine Mineral Resource Bill; Indigenous Communities Conserved Territories and Areas Bill; Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill; and Environmental Defense Bill.

M. Establish the Philippines as a leader in pursuing international climate justice for developing nations demanding just compensation from top polluter countries and carbon major companies for ecological and climate injustices suffered by the Filipino people and its environment. Recognizing that climate debt is a part of a wider ecological debt of developed nations whose wealth was historically accumulated from colonialism, the Philippines will:

1. Demand that developed countries: acknowledge their debts to developing countries who lost development opportunities and whose environments were destroyed by colonialism and globalization, and who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change; provide additional unconditional financial resources and technologies (including removing intellectual property barriers) for developing countries to respond to climate change and its adverse effects; reduce and remove their GHG emissions; shift from fossil energy to renewable energy; cancel external debt; stop the production of armaments; eliminate restrictive migration policies and other barriers to climate migrants; and reform the international financial, economic and social systems;
2. Demand a fair distribution of atmospheric space among all countries according to their population, taking into account historical and current emissions and the need for adequate development space and ecological Equilibrium;
3. Calculate the numerical expression of climate debt, based on the historic

carbon emissions of Annex I countries and the ecological footprints of the major countries that have extracted and destroyed Philippine landscapes, seascapes, and natural resources historically and currently;

4. Prepare a litigation action to be filed at an appropriate United Nations tribunal or dispute resolution system;

5. Repeal the automatic debt servicing appropriations of the General Appropriations Act as a first step to more aggressive pursuit of debt relief and cancellation; and

6. Mandating business enterprises engaged in environmentally destructive large-scale mining, dredging, reclamations, plantations, incinerators, and fossil fuel power plants to allocate 1/12th of their annual gross income for insurance against environmental disasters and human rights impacts which could stem from their operations, as well as for separate funds intended for hydrometeorological disaster risk reduction and response, environmental rehabilitation, and human rights protection respectively.

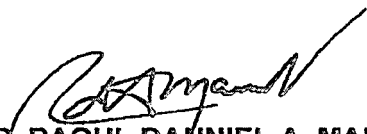
N. Establish a green finance program to ensure that government financial resources, private capital, and public and private banks support the social, economic and environmental objectives of the People's Green New Deal, covering: progressive tax increases and credit creation; stimulating and coordinating private investment; strengthening development banking in the country; banking and finance regulation; and multilateral aid, debt, investment, capital control and tax mechanisms.

O. Expand the policy space for sustainable development by reviewing the country's bilateral, regional and multilateral free trade agreements, bilateral investment treaties, and other relevant international economic agreements and identifying the areas of international trade and investment law that constrain or that facilitate attaining the objectives of the People's Green New Deal, including but not restricted to provisions on: tariffs and non-tariff barriers; subsidies; export measures; government procurement; state-owned enterprises; environmental measures; and performance requirements on foreign direct investment.

RESOLVED, FURTHER THAT Congress will lead in the crafting of legislations that will mobilize government agencies and instrumentalities, and, local government units towards the adoption of an effective implementation of this People's Green New Deal for a just and green economic recovery.

RESOLVED, FINALLY, THAT copies of this Resolution are furnished immediately to all national government agencies and instrumentalities, all local government units and other concerned institutions.

Adopted,



REP. RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL
Kabataan Party-list

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. _____
(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 3055 and 5083)

Introduced by REPS. JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES, RAYMOND
DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA and MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO
SANTOS

1
2 **AN ACT**
3 **TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, RESTORE, AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGE**
4 **PEATLANDS AND ITS RESOURCES TO ENHANCE THE COUNTRY'S**
5 **RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

6 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “National Peatland
7 and Peatland Resources Management, Conservation, Restoration, and Protection Act.”
8

9 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to promote the
10 conservation, restoration, and sustainable development of the country’s peatland and
11 peatland resources; and enhance the resilience of the Filipino people towards climate
12 change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction and management
13 consistent with the principles of sustainable development, inclusive economic
14 development, poverty reduction, and biodiversity conservation while advancing the
15 right to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the harmony and rhythm
16 of nature.
17

18 **SEC. 3. Scope and Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to all peatland and
19 peatland resources nationwide within public and private lands.
20

21 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – The following terms shall be construed to mean
22 as:
23

24 (a) *Adaptation* refers to the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and
25 its effects.
26

27 (b) *Climate change* refers to a change of climate which is attributed directly or
28 indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere

1 and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable
2 time periods.

- 3
- 4 (c) *Carbon sink* refers to carbon reservoirs and conditions that take in and store
5 more carbon than they release.
- 6
- 7 (d) *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)* refers to the systematic
8 process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills
9 and capacities to implement strategies, policies, and improved coping capacities
10 in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster.
11 Prospective Disaster Risk Reduction and Management refers to risk reduction
12 and management activities that address and seek to avoid the development of
13 new or increased disaster risks, especially if risk reduction policies are not put in
14 place.
- 15
- 16 (e) *Ecosystem-based approaches* refer to the use of biodiversity and ecosystem
17 functions and services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people
18 adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. This term may refer to a wide
19 range of ecosystem management activities to increase the resilience and
20 reduce the vulnerability of people and the environment, including climate
21 change and disasters.
- 22
- 23 (f) *High conservation value* refers to the biological, ecological, social, or cultural
24 values of outstanding significance at the national, regional, or global level or of
25 critical importance at the local level that need to be appropriately managed in
26 order to maintain or enhance.
- 27
- 28 (g) *Mitigation* refers to the human interventions to reduce the sources or enhance
29 the sinks of greenhouse gases.
- 30
- 31 (h) *Nature-based solutions* refer to actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably
32 use, and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine
33 ecosystems which address social, economic, and environmental challenges
34 effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being
35 ecosystem services, resilience, and biodiversity benefits.
- 36
- 37 (i) *Peat* refers to dead and partially decomposed plant material that have
38 accumulated under high water saturation or waterlogged conditions. Peat soil
39 is defined using the definition of histosol (organic soil) which are soils with
40 cumulative organic layers comprising more than half of the upper 80
41 centimeters of the soil surface containing 35% or more organic matter (35% or
42 more loss on ignition) or 18% or more organic carbon.
- 43
- 44 (j) *Peatlands* refer to wetland ecosystems characterized by the accumulation of
45 peat at the surface and subsurface of the soil. Major characteristics of peatlands
46 are the presence of peat and permanent water logging. Peatlands may have
47 vegetation in the form of trees, shrubs, grasses, and mosses.
- 48
- 49 (k) *Wetlands* refer to a wide variety of inland habitats such as marshes, peatlands,
50 floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as saltmarshes,

1 mangroves, intertidal mudflats, and seagrass beds; and also coral reefs and
2 other marine areas no deeper than six (6) meters at low, as well as human-
3 made wetlands such as dams, reservoirs, rice paddies, and wastewater
4 treatment ponds and lagoons.

- 5
6 (l) *Wise Use* refers to the maintenance of the ecological character of peatlands
7 achieved through the implementation of nature-based solutions and
8 ecosystem-based approaches within the context of sustainable development.
9

10 **SEC. 5. Peatlands as Carbon Sinks.** – The conservation and restoration of
11 peatlands sought to be enhanced under this Act shall be aimed at enabling the country
12 to manage peatlands sustainably, taking into account their value as natural solutions to
13 address climate change, such as functioning as carbon sinks, thus, providing
14 opportunities for the country to achieve multiple benefits for biodiversity and climate
15 resiliency, including financing through market-based instruments and mechanisms.
16

17 **SEC. 6. Implementing and Monitoring Agencies.** – The Department of
18 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Biodiversity Management
19 Bureau (BMB), shall be the lead agency in monitoring the overall implementation and
20 compliance with this Act. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG),
21 through the Bureau of Local Government Supervision (BLGS), shall support in the
22 implementation of this Act, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA) –
23 Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical
24 and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Department of Agrarian Reform
25 (DAR), DILG – Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), DILG – Bureau of Local Government
26 Development (BLGD), Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH), Climate
27 Change Commission (CCC), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Science
28 and Technology (DOST), DOST – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and
29 Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), National Commission on
30 Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), National
31 Museum, concerned DENR Offices, academe, and concerned local government units
32 (LGUs) for specific peatland areas, and as appropriate, the ASEAN Centre for
33 Biodiversity and concerned international and non-government organizations.
34

35 The DENR with the coordinating agencies shall exercise the following powers
36 and functions within their mandates:
37

- 38 (a) Formulate, implement and monitor policies, rules, regulations, plans and
39 programs;
40 (b) Enter into partnership and engagements with interested partners;
41 (c) Develop best practices on the wise use of peatland areas;
42 (d) Strengthen and implement Communication, Education and Public
43 Awareness program on peatland conservation; and
44 (e) Convene regular meetings to update and share technical progress report
45 to be shared among the coordinating agencies.
46

47 **SEC. 7. Role of Local Government Units.** – The municipal, city, or provincial
48 local government having territorial jurisdiction over the peatland and its resources shall
49 prioritize peatland for protection under Republic Act No. 7586 or the “National
50 Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992”, as amended by Republic Act

1 No. 11038, declaration as Critical Habitat under Republic Act No. 9147 or the "Wildlife
2 Resources Conservation and Protection Act", or as local conservation area or other
3 effective area-based conservation measures through the ordinances of LGUs. They
4 shall also include the protection and conservation of peatland and its resources in their
5 respective Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), Local Disaster Risk Reduction
6 and Management Plans (LDRRMPs), Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans
7 (LCCAPs), and other local plans in consultation with concerned agencies. They shall
8 coordinate with the DENR and the DILG in the monitoring of peatland and its resources
9 within their jurisdiction and in compliance of this Act.

10
11 The DENR and the DILG shall provide the technical and financial support to all
12 concerned LGUs for the management and protection of peatlands within their territorial
13 boundaries.

14
15 **SEC. 8. Integration and Mainstreaming of Peatland Protection and**
16 **Sustainable Use.** – All national government agencies and offices; and LGUs shall
17 integrate and mainstream peatland protection, conservation, restoration, and
18 sustainable use into their plans, policies, ordinances, rules and regulations, programs,
19 projects, and development planning processes. Peatland conservation and restoration
20 targets shall be identified in all plans related to biodiversity, forestry, land degradation,
21 climate change and disaster risk reduction and management, as applicable. LGUs shall
22 conduct mapping, assessment, delineation, and inventory of potential peatlands in their
23 jurisdiction. Concerned LGUs shall also directly consult with the DENR, the CCC, and
24 affected communities in the development and implementation of their plans, programs,
25 and projects within or having impact on peatlands, especially on their ecosystem
26 services, including their value as effective carbon sinks, consistent with the Nationally
27 Determined Contributions of the Philippines under the Paris Agreement on Climate
28 Change.

29
30 **SEC. 9. Development of a National Peatland Conservation and Restoration**
31 **Program.** – A National Peatland Conservation and Restoration Program, as aligned
32 with existing international commitments and national policies, plans, and programs,
33 shall be developed by the DENR, in coordination with other concerned agencies,
34 sectors, and stakeholders, within one year from the effectivity of this Act, to provide
35 direction, support, and guidance to the LGUs and stakeholders in the development and
36 implementation of their local peatland conservation and restoration programs. The
37 National Peatland Conservation and Restoration Program shall define national targets
38 for the conservation and restoration of peatlands and the development of its national
39 coordinating mechanism.

40
41 The Program shall include the following strategies:

42
43 (a) Inventory, mapping, delineation, assessment, and monitoring of
44 peatlands. All peatlands in the country shall be inventoried and assessed. Peatland
45 assessment including bio-capacity, carrying capacity, carbon storage, contributions to
46 ecological connectivity, and ecosystem services assessment and valuation as a natural
47 capital of peatland ecosystems shall be conducted to measure the full extent of its value
48 and guide agencies on its conservation, restoration, and sustainable use.

1 (b) Assessment of vulnerability to climate change and disaster risk
2 management.

3
4 (c) Peatland carbon stock assessment, accounting, verification, and
5 crediting. The nationwide assessment of carbon stocks shall be completed three (3)
6 years after the completion of a national peatland inventory.

7
8 (d) Assessment and monitoring of greenhouse gas flux and emissions.
9 Results of nationwide assessment of GHG fluxes from peatlands shall be contributed
10 to the reportorial requirements submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention
11 on Climate Change.

12
13 (e) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands. Nature-based
14 solutions and ecosystem-based approaches shall be primarily employed in the
15 restoration of the ecosystem services lost from peatland degradation.

16
17 (f) Regulation against peatland drainage, conversion and reclamation, peat
18 extraction, and deliberate setting of fire within the peatland or immediately adjacent
19 areas that may affect the peatland.

20
21 (g) Enforcement of legal easement zones, danger zones, and other land use
22 setbacks. All concerned government agencies and LGUs shall strictly implement land
23 use setback provisions imposed by law.

24
25 (h) Peat fire early warning systems, prevention, control, and monitoring.

26
27 (i) Research, development, and extension. Extensive researches that will
28 determine the value of peatlands and peatland resources as well as best practices that
29 will sustain these values shall be recognized as integral part of management strategies.
30 The use of innovative technologies on sustainable peatland management and practices
31 on peatland ecosystem-based adaptation shall also be promoted and made accessible
32 particularly to vulnerable communities.

33
34 (j) Knowledge management and peatland information system.

35
36 (k) Implementation of soil and water conservation research and development
37 efforts and technologies.

38
39 (l) Measures to address invasive alien species in peatlands.

40
41 (m) Establishment and promotion of peatland best management practices,
42 and capacity building including Public-Private Partnership.

43
44 (n) Communication, education, participation, capacity-building, and
45 awareness program.

46
47 (o) Collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities in the
48 management and wise use of the peatlands including providing sustainable livelihood
49 for peatland dependent communities, in coordination with the Department of Trade and

1 Industry (DTI), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and
2 other concerned agencies.

3
4 (p) Harmonization and integration of local and traditional ecological
5 knowledge and practices with science-based knowledge systems.

6
7 (q) Requiring environmental impact assessments for any development
8 activity
9 proposed within the peatland or adjacent areas; or the catchment of the peatland which
10 may potentially have a negative impact on the peatland.

11
12 **SEC. 10. Land Classification of Peatland.** – Peatlands that are classified as
13 agricultural land shall be reclassified to either forest land or national park if, upon the
14 recommendation of DENR based on a suitability assessment, such peatlands have
15 High Conservation Value and still provide ecosystems services, particularly water and
16 climate regulation.

17
18 All peatlands that have been alienated and disposed for agricultural purposes
19 after classification as agricultural land but are not being utilized for such purpose shall
20 be rehabilitated, restored, protected, and conserved. For such purpose of rehabilitation,
21 restoration, protection, and conservation, based on suitability assessment, the
22 Secretary of the DENR may acquire, by purchase, donation, or expropriation, lands or
23 interests therein, including the acquisition of usufruct, establishment of easements, or
24 other undertakings appropriate in protecting the peatlands. Only those which have High
25 Conservation Value and provide ecosystems services, particularly water and climate
26 regulation, shall be recommended for such undertakings.

27
28 **SEC. 11. Prohibited acts.** – In addition to acts or omissions already penalized
29 by existing laws, the following offenses in peatlands within public domain shall be
30 punishable under this Act:

31
32 (a) Drainage of peatlands for agriculture development, industrial, urban,
33 illegal logging, transport, infrastructure, and other land use.

34
35 (b) Forest clearance and degradation for peatland conversion to agriculture,
36 mining, residential, or any other kind of conversion; logging; human-induced fire; illegal
37 peat reclamation; illegal peat dewatering; illegal peat quarrying; or illegal harvesting of
38 wildlife.

39
40 (c) Peatland deforestation and fires for land clearance, land claims and
41 conflicts, resource extraction, or accidental.

42
43 (d) Peatland clearing or earth moving for conversion to fish ponds or heavy
44 developments including recreational facilities that are not suitable to peatlands.

45
46 (e) Dumping of wastes and sediments from mining, factories, quarrying
47 operations, and sewer, as well as farm water carrying pesticide residues and/or
48 pollutants such as swine or livestock effluents thereby causing pollution to the
49 peatlands.

1 (f) Introduction of invasive alien species in peatlands.
2

3 **SEC. 12. Penal Provision.** – Violation under this Act or any rule or regulation
4 pursuant to this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished with a fine of not less than Two
5 Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6)
6 months, or both, which shall be imposed at the discretion of the court.
7

8 **SEC. 13. Reporting Responsibility.** – The DENR Regional Executive Director
9 (RED), under whose jurisdiction the peatland is located, shall submit an annual
10 accomplishment report on their peatlands to the Secretary of the DENR through the
11 BMB. The report shall also include the conditions and benefits of the biological
12 resources and ecosystem services of the peatland to be submitted by the RED, through
13 channels, to the Secretary of the DENR every five (5) years. Consequently, the BMB
14 shall, likewise, prepare a report on the implementation of the National Action Plan for
15 the Protection and Sustainable Use of Philippine Peatlands (NAPP) every five (5) years
16 and shall submit the same to the President. The country report on the status of
17 peatlands shall also inform the updating of national action plans on biodiversity,
18 forestry, land degradation, climate change, and disaster risk reduction and
19 management, among others.
20

21 **SEC. 14. Appropriations.** – The amounts necessary to implement this Act
22 during the first year of implementation shall be sourced from the DENR. Thereafter,
23 such amounts necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act shall be
24 included in the General Appropriations Act.
25

26 **SEC. 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DENR, in close
27 coordination with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall within six (6) months
28 from the effectivity of this Act issue rules and regulations necessary to implement the
29 provisions hereof.
30

31 **SEC. 16. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared
32 unconstitutional or invalid, any part or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall
33 continue to be in full force and effect.
34

35 **SEC. 17. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
36 regulations, or parts thereof which are contrary or inconsistent with this Act are hereby
37 repealed or modified accordingly.
38

39 **SEC. 18. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
40 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
41 circulation.
42

43 *Approved.*