



MEMORANDUM

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

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

The Regional Executive Director
DENR Region VI

The Administrator
National Mapping and Resource Information Authority

The Officer-in-Charge
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SENATE BILL NO. 238 – AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE ECOTOURISM ZONE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO ENCOURAGE THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE AS WELL AS FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUND THEREIN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES FROM THE SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON TOURISM**

DATE : 27 April 2023

The Committee on Tourism's Sub-Committee on Senate Bill Nos. 238, 1166, 1615, and Proposed Senate Resolution 472, will hold a Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting on **03 May 2023, Wednesday, 10:00 AM** at the Sen. Recto Room, 2nd Floor, Senate of the Philippines and via Cisco Webex platform to discuss *Senate Bill No. 238 – AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE ECOTOURISM ZONE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO ENCOURAGE THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE AS WELL AS FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUND THEREIN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES* by Sen. Loren Legarda.

In this regard, we would like to invite you or your representative to attend the hearing, and we respectfully request your comments/recommendations on the above-mentioned bill, in preparation for the upcoming public hearing, as requested by the Committee. Kindly submit your comments on or before 02 May 2023, 5:00 PM via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph.

Attached herewith are the letter and a copy of the Senate Bill for your reference.



ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs



Republic of the Philippines
Senate

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SENATE BILL NOS. 238, 1166, 1615, AND
PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION 472

Joint with the Committees on Environment, Natural Resources and
Climate Change; and Finance

April 26, 2023

HON. MA. ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

osec@denr.gov.ph

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denrilo@denr.gov.ph

Dear SEC. YULO-LOYZAGA:

The Committee on Tourism's *Sub-Committee on Senate Bill Nos. 238, 1166, 1615, and Proposed Senate Resolution 472*, will hold a **Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting on May 3, 2023, Wednesday, 10 am** at the **Sen. Recto Room, 2nd Floor, Senate of the Philippines** to discuss **Senate Bill No. 238 – AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO ENCOURAGE THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE AS WELL AS FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUND THEREIN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (by Sen. Legarda)**

In this regard, the Subcommittee would like to invite your **authorized representative** to join us in this hybrid meeting for your comments and inputs. We are sending you a copy of

the draft bill that will be used as a working draft in the meeting. You may use the attached matrix for your comments, if any.

As part of the Senate's health and safety protocols, the following guidelines are implemented for resource persons who will physically attend Committee Hearings and Meetings:

- 1.) Name of resource persons must be submitted to the Committee Secretariat at least one (1) day before the Hearing/Meeting for proper endorsement to the office of the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms. Those who are not on the list will be denied entry; and*
- 2.) Before entry, resource persons should present to the Medical staff on duty at the Senate lobby proof of full vaccination (must have at least completed the primary dose series)*

For those participating online, the Committee will send the Cisco Webex link to your email, an hour before the start of the meeting. For further assistance, you may contact the undersigned Committee Secretary at Viber 09178669287 or our support staff, Mr. Japit Tijap at 09194873335.

Once again, your presence and participation in this technical working group meeting will be greatly appreciated.

**For the SUBCOMMITTEE Chair:
SEN. SONNY ANGARA**



**BERNADINE B. MAHINAY
Committee Secretary**

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

SENATE

S. No. _____

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE SEASCAPE AND
LANDSCAPE ECOTOURISM ZONE LOCATED IN THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI,
AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE TO ENCOURAGE THE
RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE AS WELL AS FOR THE
PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES
FOUND THEREIN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “*Northern Antique*
2 *Ecotourism Act of 2022*”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State is mandated to promote a tourism
4 industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative,
5 culturally sensitive, economically viable, and equitable for the local community.
6 Towards this end, the Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism
7 Zone (NASLEZ) is hereby declared a special eco-tourism zone, where the
8 responsible and sustainable use of the natural resources therein is encouraged
9 and will be strictly implemented.

10 Sec. 3. *Objectives.* - Pursuant to the above declaration of policy, the State shall
11 endeavor to accomplish the following:

12 (a) Develop and promote responsible, community-based ecological tourism
13 as the core management strategy in the development of the NASLEZ;

- 1 (b) Ensure the conservation of the biodiversity and the preservation of the
2 said ecotourism site;
- 3 (c) Develop ecotourism products and programs that will generate employment
4 and livelihood for the local residents concerned, consistent with the
5 preservation and maintenance of the natural resources;
- 6 (d) Guarantee that the financial and economic benefits of the tourism industry
7 are equitably shared by, and distributed among the local residents
8 concerned by giving preference and support to community and home-based
9 tourism enterprises, such as, but not limited to, resorts and homestays, micro
10 and small businesses including restaurants, food and fruit stands, and other
11 similar tourism-oriented industries and businesses;
- 12 (e) Ensure that the quality of local ecotourism programs and activities are
13 educational and enriching for tourists and visitors through the provision of
14 orientation, educational, and tour programs by local tour operators, non-
15 government organizations (NGOs), the concerned Local Government Units
16 (LGUs), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),
17 and the Department of Tourism (DOT); and,
- 18 (f) Guarantee that in the development and promotion of the local tourism
19 industry, the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) shall ensure that
20 the needs of the local residents for adequate water supply, food, energy,
21 transportation, and local construction materials are first secured and met.

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

- 23 (a) *Buffer Zone* refers to an identified area outside the boundaries of and
24 immediately adjacent to the NASLEZ that needs special development
25 control in order to avoid or minimize any threat or harm to the NASLEZ;
- 26 (b) *Community-Based Ecotourism* refers to a form of tourism where the local
27 community and its residents have substantial control and involvement in
28 the development and management of the local tourism industry and a
29 greater portion of the economic gains remain within the community;

1 (c) *Ecotourism* refers to a form of sustainable tourism within a natural area
2 where community participation, protection and management of natural
3 resources, cultural and indigenous knowledge and practices,
4 environmental education, and ethics, as well as economic benefits are
5 fostered and pursued for the enrichment of host communities and the
6 satisfaction of the visitors;

7 (d) *Responsible Ecotourism* refers to a form of sustainable tourism in which both
8 the tourism sector and the tourists take responsibility for the protection,
9 respect, and conservation of the natural environment and the local culture
10 and ways of life, and where community participation, as well as benefits,
11 are fostered and pursued for the well-being of the local people and visitors.

12 Sec. 5. *Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone*. – The
13 Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone (NASLEZ) located
14 in the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao in the
15 Province of Antique is hereby declared a responsible, community-based ecotourism
16 zone. It shall be accorded priority development by the DOT, DENR, Department of
17 Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise
18 Zone Authority (TIEZA) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the
19 development of ecotourism zones provided in the national ecotourism strategy jointly
20 issued by the DENR and DOT and the benefits provided by the Tourism Act of 2009
21 (RA 9093).

22 Sec. 6. *Scope and Coverage*. – The NASLEZ, which shall cover an area of
23 364,453.5395 hectares, shall be composed of the following:

24 a) The wetland area located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan, Antique composed of
25 mangrove forest and estuarine river ecosystem with an area of 21,095
26 hectares, located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan Antique;

27 b) The seas, islet, and sandbar ecosystem covering the municipalities of
28 Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao with an area of 213,556.26
29 hectares; and,

30 c) Pandan Bay with an area of 150,876.25 hectares.

31 The corresponding boundaries shall be as follows:

1 A. The wetland area

2 Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21' W, 27,787.09 meters from

3 reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape

4 Ecotourism Zone;

5 thence S 75° 30' E 3,242.00 meters to corner 2;

6 thence N 81° 34' E 3,723.95 meters to corner 3

7 thence S 88° 11' E 4,292.00 meters to corner 4

8 thence S 70° 26' E 7,759.31 meters to corner 5

9 thence S 83° 19' E 3,489.57 meters to corner 6

10 thence N 78° 36' E 2,873.78 meters to corner 7

11 thence S 40° 19' E 4,925.65 meters to corner 8

12 thence S 05° 55' W 14,342.35 meters to corner 9

13 thence S 12° 57' W 4,208.77 meters to corner 10

14 thence S 20° 40' W 8,176.30 meters to corner 11

15 thence S 26° 28' E 2,100.83 meters to corner 12

16 thence S 15° 07' W 3,828.16 meters to corner 13

17 thence S 14° 11' E 4,552.10 meters to corner 14

18 thence S 07° 49' W 2,472.18 meters to corner 15

19 thence N 89° 51' W 17,369.06 meters to corner 16

20 thence S 19° 13' W 3,169.16 meters to corner 17

21 thence S 47° 56' W 18,926.52 meters to corner 18

22 thence S 61° 51' W 6,834.81 meters to corner 19

23 thence S 88° 08' W 6,837.37 meters to corner 20

24 thence N 65° 37' W 6,817.66 meters to corner 21

25 thence N 40° 46' W 6,141.86 meters to corner 22

26 thence N 16° 52' W 6,841.57 meters to corner 23

27 thence N 09° 23' E 6,833.87 meters to corner 24

28 thence N 03° 19' E 32,126.72 meters to corner 25

29 thence N 31° 53' E 4,886.87 meters to corner 26

30 thence N 50° 38' E 3,792.90 meters to corner 27

31 thence N 66° 15' E 6,070.27 meters to corner 28

1 thence N 83° 30' E 20,309.49 meters to corner 1.
2 to the point of beginning containing an area of two hundred ninety-nine
3 thousand nine hundred forty two and 542/100 (299,942.542) hectares, more or
4 less.

5 B. Seas, Islets, and Sandbar Ecosystem

6 Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being S 86° 08' W, 33,925.26 meters from
7 reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape
8 Ecotourism Zone;

9 thence S 44° 36' W 14,735.43 meters to corner 2;
10 thence S 30° 12' E 1,957.43 meters to corner 3;
11 thence S 57° 20' E 24,725.84 meters to corner 4;
12 thence N 81° 25' E 4,111.89 meters to corner 5;
13 thence S 52° 51' E 11,911.68 meters to corner 6;
14 thence N 84° 22' E 3,904.27 meters to corner 7;
15 thence S 14° 11' E 4,552.10 meters to corner 8;
16 thence S 07° 49' W 2,472.18 meters to corner 9;
17 thence N 89° 51' W 17,369.06 meters to corner 10;
18 thence S 19° 13' W 3,169.16 meters to corner 11;
19 thence S 47° 56' W 18,926.52 meters to corner 12;
20 thence S 61° 51' W 6,834.81 meters to corner 13;
21 thence S 88° 08' W 6,837.37 meters to corner 14;
22 thence N 65° 37' W 6,817.66 meters to corner 15;
23 thence N 35° 22' W 6,930.04 meters to corner 16;
24 thence N 19° 42' W 5,891.75 meters to corner 17;
25 thence N 09° 23' E 6,833.87 meters to corner 18;
26 thence N 03° 19' E 32,126.72 meters to corner 19;
27 thence N 31° 53' E 4,886.87 meters to corner 20;
28 thence N 50° 38' E 3,792.90 meters to corner 21;
29 thence N 66° 15' E 6,070.27 meters to corner 22;
30 thence N 88° 45' E 5,636.26 meters to corner 23;
31 thence S 62° 17' E 9,225.27 meters to corner 1.

1 to the point of beginning containing an area of one hundred eighty-six thousand
2 forty two hundred and 676/100 (186,042.676) hectares, more or less.

3 C. Pandan Bay

4 Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21' W, 27,787.09 meters from
5 reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape
6 Ecotourism Zone;

- 7 thence S 75° 30' E 3,242.00 meters to corner 2;
- 8 thence N 81° 34' E 3,723.95 meters to corner 3;
- 9 thence S 88° 11' E 4,292.00 meters to corner 4;
- 10 thence S 70° 26' E 7,759.31 meters to corner 5;
- 11 thence S 83° 19' E 3,489.57 meters to corner 6;
- 12 thence N 78° 36' E 2,873.78 meters to corner 7;
- 13 thence S 40° 19' E 4,925.65 meters to corner 8;
- 14 thence S 05° 55' W 14,342.35 meters to corner 9;
- 15 thence S 12° 57' W 4,208.77 meters to corner 10;
- 16 thence S 20° 40' W 8,176.30 meters to corner 11;
- 17 thence S 26° 28' E 2,100.83 meters to corner 12;
- 18 thence S 15° 07' W 3,828.16 meters to corner 13;
- 19 thence S 84° 22' W 3,904.27 meters to corner 14;
- 20 thence N 52° 51' W 11,911.68 meters to corner 15;
- 21 thence S 81° 25' W 4,111.89 meters to corner 16;
- 22 thence N 57° 20' W 24,725.84 meters to corner 17;
- 23 thence N 30° 12' W 1,957.43 meters to corner 18;
- 24 thence N 44° 36' E 23,817.36 meters to corner 1.

25 to the point of beginning containing an area of one hundred nine thousand sixty
26 seven hundred and 405/100 (109,067.405) hectares, more or less.

27 The metes and bounds of NASLEZ shall be indicated on maps and/or nautical charts.
28 Any modification of the coverage of this Act due to such factors as changing ecological
29 situation, new scientific or archaeological findings, or discovery of traditional
30 boundaries not previously taken into account shall be made through an act of
31 Congress, after consultation with the concerned government agencies.

1 Sec. 7. *Establishment of a Buffer Zone.* – There shall also be an established buffer
2 zones surrounding the NASLEZ to provide extra protection around the area, where
3 restrictions shall apply and communities can assist in repealing threats to the
4 NASLEZ. Such buffer zones shall be managed according to the ecotourism and
5 management plan formulated under this Act.

6 Such buffer zone shall be included in the ecotourism development and management
7 plan of the NASLEZ; Provided, that no build-up or reclamation detrimental to the
8 diversity in the NASLEZ shall be done within the designated buffer zone. The Council
9 shall exercise its authority over the designated buffer zone.

10 Sec. 8. *Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone Management*
11 *Plan.* – The DENR and the DOT, in coordination with the DPWH and TIEZA, shall
12 jointly assist the Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone
13 Development Council, herein created, in the formulation of the ecotourism
14 development and management plan for the NASLEZ that shall be complemented by
15 a set of guidelines for responsible, community-based ecotourism. The tourism
16 development and management plan shall ensure the preservation of the seascapes and
17 landscapes and shall include the following components:

- 18 (a) Carrying capacity of the seascapes and landscapes and its endemic and
19 migratory birds species;
- 20 (b) Specific site assessment, including terrestrial, underwater (biotic and
21 abiotic), oceanographic, and other scientific site assessments;
- 22 (c) Identification of strategic priorities;
- 23 (d) Product development for local income generation;
- 24 (e) Capacity building for the local community to allow residents therein to ably
25 manage economically viable and responsible, community-based
26 ecotourism business enterprises;
- 27 (f) Support for the formulation of local groups and networks, including the
28 marketing and pricing of products;
- 29 (g) Marketing strategies that reflect the natural, social, and environmental
30 integrity of the NASLEZ;
- 31 (h) Regular water quality monitoring of the seascapes;

- 1 (i) Management and maintenance of the mangrove areas; and
- 2 (j) Proper solid waste management in accordance with Republic Act No. 9003,
- 3 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act; and,
- 4 (k) Proper use, protection, preservation, and revival of water resources and
- 5 implementation of a proper sewerage system in accordance with Republic
- 6 Act No. 9275, or the Clean Water Act;

7 The process of developing the ecotourism development and management plan for the
8 NASLEZ shall be participatory, from the bottom up, with the framework to be
9 provided by the DOT and DENR in consultation with the Northern Antique Tourism
10 Management Zone Council herein created.

11 To protect the mangroves and forest in NASLEZ, the foreshore areas shall not be
12 leased to any private entity Provided that sustainable use rental may be approved by
13 a 2/3 vote of the Council;

14 *Sec. 9. Formation of the Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism*
15 *Zone Council.* - A multi-sectoral council to be known as the "Northern Antique
16 Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone Council", hereinafter referred to as the
17 Council, shall be created. It shall be composed of the following members:

- 18 (a) The Mayors of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and
- 19 Tibiao shall take turns serving as Chairperson;
- 20 (b) The heads of the Municipal Tourism Offices of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste,
- 21 Culasi, and Tibiao shall take turns serving as Vice-chairpersons;
- 22 (c) The heads of the Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Office
- 23 of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall likewise take turns
- 24 serving as member;
- 25 (d) The Association of Barangay Chairmen (ABC) Presidents of the
- 26 barangays of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and
- 27 Tibiao shall also serve alternately;
- 28 (e) The Chairmen of the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
- 29 Management Councils of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao
- 30 shall also serve alternately;

1 Provided, That representatives from the LGUs as indicated in sub-
2 sections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) above, coming from the same
3 municipality, shall all together serve for the same period;

4 (f) The Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Officer
5 of the Province of Antique;

6 (g) The Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB);

7 (h) The Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise
8 Zone Authority (TIEZA);

9 (i) The Regional Director of DOT-Region 6;

10 (j) The Regional Director of DENR-Region 6;

11 (k) The Regional Director of DPWH-Region 6;

12 (l) The DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer
13 (PENRO) of Antique;

14 (m) One representative from an academic institution, preferably from a state
15 university or college in the Province of Antique, with proven track record
16 in or related to protected seascapes and landscapes management;

17 (n) One representative from the private sector, a resident of the Province of
18 Antique, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant
19 to protected seascapes and landscapes management; and,

20 (o) One representative from either a non-government organization (NGO) or
21 People's Organization (PO), duly accredited both by the DENR and the
22 provincial government of Antique. The NGO or PO represented should
23 have been in existence for at least five (5) years with a proven track record
24 in or related to seascapes and landscapes management.

25 The *ex-officio* members of the Council by virtue of their elective or appointive
26 government positions as specified in the immediately preceding subsections (a), (b),
27 (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) shall serve for the duration of their respective
28 terms of office in their respective elective or appointive government positions.

29 The members of the Council specified under subsections (m), (n), and (o) of this
30 section shall be elected by the *ex-officio* members of the Council in a transparent and

1 fair selection process. They shall each serve a term of three (3) years and may be
2 reappointed for another term.

3 The members of the Council shall serve without compensation, except for the actual
4 and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of their
5 duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the Council or in connection with
6 other official business authorized through a resolution of the Council, subject to
7 existing rules and regulations. Each member shall have the full capacity and
8 accountability for decisions binding to the member's sector.

9 The members of the Council duly elected or appointed prior to the effectivity of this
10 Act shall continue their term until the expiration of their term or appointment.
11 Thereafter, members of the Council shall be appointed in accordance with the
12 provisions of this Act.

13 A member of the Council may be removed for any of the following grounds:

- 14 (a) More than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings
15 of the Council;
- 16 (b) Commission of acts prejudicial to the development and management of
17 NASLEZ as embodied in existing rules and regulations governing
18 NASLEZ;
- 19 (c) Disassociation from the office or organization being represented;
- 20 (d) Termination of relationship with the office or organization being
21 represented; or
- 22 (e) Conviction by final judgment of any criminal act.

23 The local government of the Province of Antique shall provide a secretariat for the
24 Council including the funding necessary to cover the expenses for the performance of
25 its official functions and activities.

26 Sec. 10. *Functions and Responsibilities of the NASLEZ Council.* – The Council
27 shall be responsible for the following:

- 28 (a) Formulation and the implementation of the ecotourism development and
29 management plan in consultation with the local residents, businesses, and
30 other stakeholders;

- 1 (b) Assessment and evaluation of the potential impact of the development on
2 the environmental safety and well-being of the seascapes and
3 landscapes, communities, and enterprises;
- 4 (c) Provision of technical and financial assistance to the communities within
5 the seascapes and landscapes;
- 6 (d) Implementation of a monitoring plan for the water birds and their habitats
7 to ensure their presence and well-being in NASLEZ;
- 8 (e) Formulation of the rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance
9 and security of the ecotourism areas; and
- 10 (f) Performance of other functions as may be necessary to carry out the
11 objectives of this Act.

12 *Sec. 11. Formulation of Guidelines and Standards.* – The DENR and DOT shall
13 assist the Council in the formulation of local ecotourism standards ensuring that
14 environmental protection is integrated into the development and management of the
15 ecotourism plans.

16 The guidelines and standards shall:

- 17 (a) Raise the capacity of all stakeholders and ensure that best practices are
18 followed;
- 19 (b) Ensure optimal use of water and energy;
- 20 (c) Reduce waste and pollution through the encouragement of recycling and
21 other environmentally-sound waste management reduction and disposal
22 schemes;
- 23 (d) Prevent vandalism in the facilities of the eco-park; and
- 24 (e) Encourage the use of local produce and services, and support the
25 employment of local people.

1 Sec. 12. *Coordination with National Agencies.* - The DENR and the DOT shall
2 closely coordinate with the Council, as well as the relevant regional offices of the
3 DPWH, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of
4 Transportation (DOTr), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of
5 Education (DepEd), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department
6 of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police
7 (PNP), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and other line agencies of the
8 government in the implementation of this Act.

9 Sec. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within thirty (30) days
10 from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR and the DOT, in consultation
11 with the Council, other concerned government agencies, and stakeholders,
12 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper and
13 effective implementation of this Act.

14 Sec. 14. *Appropriations.* - The Secretaries of the DENR, DOT, and DPWH
15 and the Chief Operating Officer of TIEZA shall include in their subsidy
16 programs, support for the capital outlay requirements of the NASLEZ for
17 the preliminary implementation of this Act and enhancement of the facilities
18 of the ecotourism zone which shall be taken from the budget of their
19 respective agencies for the current fiscal year.

20 The budgetary allocations for the succeeding years shall be included in the
21 General Appropriations Act, subject to a government audit.

22 Sec. 15. *eNIPAS Process.* Nothing in this law shall be interpreted to mean
23 cessation or interruption of the process for establishment as a protected area
24 and the Council, the TIEZA and the DOT shall ensure that such process towards
25 the eventual establishment of the Northern Antique Protected Seascapes and
26 Landscapes shall be supported and the consultations therein made an integral
27 part of their functions;

28 Sec 16. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason, any provision of this
29 Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which
30 are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1 Sec. 17. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
2 proclamations, and administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent
3 herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 Sec. 18. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation or in the
6 *Official Gazette.*

Approved,

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p align="center">Draft Committee Report (NASLEZ) Northern Antique Ecotourism Act of 2022</p>	<p align="center">COMMENTS</p>
<p align="center">AN ACT</p> <p align="center">DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE ECOTOURISM ZONE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI, AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE TO ENCOURAGE THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE AS WELL AS FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUND THEREIN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES</p>	
<p><i>Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:</i></p>	
<p>Section 1. <i>Short Title.</i> – This Act shall be known as the “<i>Northern Antique Ecotourism Act of 2022</i>”.</p>	
<p>Sec. 2. <i>Declaration of Policy.</i> - The State is mandated to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable, and equitable for the local community. Towards this end, the Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone (NASLEZ) is hereby declared a special eco-tourism zone, where the</p>	

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<p>responsible and sustainable use of the natural resources therein is encouraged and will be strictly implemented.</p>	
<p>Sec. 3. <i>Objectives.</i> - Pursuant to the above declaration of policy, the State shall endeavor to accomplish the following:</p>	
<p>(a) Develop and promote responsible, community-based ecological tourism as the core management strategy in the development of the NASLEZ;</p>	
<p>(b) Ensure the conservation of the biodiversity and the preservation of the said ecotourism site;</p>	
<p>(c) Develop ecotourism products and programs that will generate employment and livelihood for the local residents concerned, consistent with the preservation and maintenance of the natural resources;</p>	
<p>(d) Guarantee that the financial and economic benefits of the tourism industry are equitably shared by, and distributed among the local residents concerned by giving preference and support to community and home-based tourism enterprises, such as, but not limited to, resorts and homestays, micro and small businesses including restaurants, food and fruit stands, and other similar tourism-oriented industries and businesses;</p>	
<p>(e) Ensure that the quality of local ecotourism programs and activities are educational and enriching for tourists and visitors through the provision</p>	

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<p>of orientation, educational, and tour programs by local tour operators, non-government organizations (NGOs), the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of Tourism (DOT); and,</p>	
<p>(f) Guarantee that in the development and promotion of the local tourism industry, the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) shall ensure that the needs of the local residents for adequate water supply, food, energy, transportation, and local construction materials are first secured and met.</p>	
<p><i>Sec. 4. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:</i></p>	
<p>(a) <i>Buffer Zone</i> refers to an identified area outside the boundaries of and immediately adjacent to the NASLEZ that needs special development control in order to avoid or minimize any threat or harm to the NASLEZ;</p>	
<p>(b) <i>Community-Based Ecotourism</i> refers to a form of tourism where the local community and its residents have substantial control and involvement in the development and management of the local tourism industry and a greater portion of the economic gains remain within the community;</p>	
<p>(c) <i>Ecotourism</i> refers to a form of sustainable tourism within a natural area where community participation, protection and management of natural resources, cultural and indigenous knowledge and practices,</p>	

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<p>environmental education, and ethics, as well as economic benefits are fostered and pursued for the enrichment of host communities and the satisfaction of the visitors;</p>	
<p>(d) <i>Responsible Ecotourism</i> refers to a form of sustainable tourism in which both the tourism sector and the tourists take responsibility for the protection, respect, and conservation of the natural environment and the local culture and ways of life, and where community participation, as well as benefits, are fostered and pursued for the well-being of the local people and visitors.</p>	
<p><i>Sec. 5. Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone. — The Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone (NASLEZ) located in the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao in the Province of Antique is hereby declared a responsible, community-based ecotourism zone. It shall be accorded priority development by the DOT, DENR, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones provided in the national ecotourism strategy jointly issued by the DENR and DOT and the benefits provided by the Tourism Act of 2009 (RA 9093).</i></p>	

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<p>Sec. 6. <i>Scope and Coverage.</i> – The NASLEZ, which shall cover an area of 364,453.5395 hectares, shall be composed of the following:</p>	
<p>a) The wetland area located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan, Antique composed of mangrove forest and estuarine river ecosystem with an area of 21,095 hectares, located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan Antique;</p>	
<p>b) The seas, islet, and sandbar ecosystem covering the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao with an area of 213,556.26 hectares; and,</p>	
<p>c) Pandan Bay with an area of 150,876.25 hectares.</p>	
<p>The corresponding boundaries shall be as follows:</p>	
<p>A. The wetland area Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21' W, 27,787.09 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone;</p>	
<p>thence S 75° 30' E 3,242.00 meters to corner 2; thence N 81° 34' E 3,723.95 meters to corner 3 thence S 88° 11' E 4,292.00 meters to corner 4 thence S 70° 26' E 7,759.31 meters to corner 5 thence S 83° 19' E 3,489.57 meters to corner 6</p>	

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thence	N 78° 36' E	2,873.78	meters to corner 7
thence	S 40° 19' E	4,925.65	meters to corner 8
thence	S 05° 55' W	14,342.35	meters to corner 9
thence	S 12° 57' W	4,208.77	meters to corner 10
thence	S 20° 40' W	8,176.30	meters to corner 11
thence	S 26° 28' E	2,100.83	meters to corner 12
thence	S 15° 07' W	3,828.16	meters to corner 13
thence	S 14° 11' E	4,552.10	meters to corner 14
thence	S 07° 49' W	2,472.18	meters to corner 15
thence	N 89° 51' W	17,369.06	meters to corner 16
thence	S 19° 13' W	3,169.16	meters to corner 17
thence	S 47° 56' W	18,926.52	meters to corner 18
thence	S 61° 51' W	6,834.81	meters to corner 19
thence	S 88° 08' W	6,837.37	meters to corner 20
thence	N 65° 37' W	6,817.66	meters to corner 21
thence	N 40° 46' W	6,141.86	meters to corner 22
thence	N 16° 52' W	6,841.57	meters to corner 23
thence	N 09° 23' E	6,833.87	meters to corner 24
thence	N 03° 19' E	32,126.72	meters to corner 25
thence	N 31° 53' E	4,886.87	meters to corner 26

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<p>thence N 50° 38' E 3,792.90 meters to corner 27</p> <p>thence N 66° 15' E 6,070.27 meters to corner 28</p> <p>thence N 83° 30' E 20,309.49 meters to corner 1.</p>	
<p>to the point of beginning containing an area of two hundred ninety-nine thousand nine hundred forty two and 542/100 (299,942.542) hectares, more or less.</p>	
<p>B. Seas, Islets, and Sandbar Ecosystem</p> <p>Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being S 86° 08' W, 33,925.26 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone;</p>	
<p>thence S 44° 36' W 14,735.43 meters to corner 2;</p> <p>thence S 30° 12' E 1,957.43 meters to corner 3;</p> <p>thence S 57° 20' E 24,725.84 meters to corner 4;</p> <p>thence N 81° 25' E 4,111.89 meters to corner 5;</p> <p>thence S 52° 51' E 11,911.68 meters to corner 6;</p> <p>thence N 84° 22' E 3,904.27 meters to corner 7;</p> <p>thence S 14° 11' E 4,552.10 meters to corner 8;</p> <p>thence S 07° 49' W 2,472.18 meters to corner 9;</p> <p>thence N 89° 51' W 17,369.06 meters to corner 10;</p> <p>thence S 19° 13' W 3,169.16 meters to corner 11;</p>	

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thence	S 47° 56' W	18,926.52	meters to corner 12;	
thence	S 61° 51' W	6,834.81	meters to corner 13;	
thence	S 88° 08' W	6,837.37	meters to corner 14;	
thence	N 65° 37' W	6,817.66	meters to corner 15;	
thence	N 35° 22' W	6,930.04	meters to corner 16;	
thence	N 19° 42' W	5,891.75	meters to corner 17;	
thence	N 09° 23' E	6,833.87	meters to corner 18;	
thence	N 03° 19' E	32,126.72	meters to corner 19;	
thence	N 31° 53' E	4,886.87	meters to corner 20;	
thence	N 50° 38' E	3,792.90	meters to corner 21;	
thence	N 66° 15' E	6,070.27	meters to corner 22;	
thence	N 88° 45' E	5,636.26	meters to corner 23;	
thence	S 62° 17' E	9,225.27	meters to corner 1.	
to the point of beginning containing an area of one hundred eighty-six thousand forty two hundred and 676/100 (186,042.676) hectares, more or less.				
C. Pandan Bay				

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<p>Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21' W, 27,787.09 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone;</p>	
<p>thence S 75° 30' E 3,242.00 meters to corner 2; thence N 81° 34' E 3,723.95 meters to corner 3; thence S 88° 11' E 4,292.00 meters to corner 4; thence S 70° 26' E 7,759.31 meters to corner 5; thence S 83° 19' E 3,489.57 meters to corner 6; thence N 78° 36' E 2,873.78 meters to corner 7; thence S 40° 19' E 4,925.65 meters to corner 8; thence S 05° 55' W 14,342.35 meters to corner 9; thence S 12° 57' W 4,208.77 meters to corner 10; thence S 20° 40' W 8,176.30 meters to corner 11; thence S 26° 28' E 2,100.83 meters to corner 12; thence S 15° 07' W 3,828.16 meters to corner 13; thence S 84° 22' W 3,904.27 meters to corner 14; thence N 52° 51' W 11,911.68 meters to corner 15; thence S 81° 25' W 4,111.89 meters to corner 16; thence N 57° 20' W 24,725.84 meters to corner 17; thence N 30° 12' W 1,957.43 meters to corner 18;</p>	

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<p>thence N 44° 36' E 23,817.36 meters to corner 1.</p>	
<p>to the point of beginning containing an area of one hundred nine thousand sixty seven hundred and 405/100 (109,067.405) hectares, more or less.</p>	
<p>The metes and bounds of NASLEZ shall be indicated on maps and/or nautical charts. Any modification of the coverage of this Act due to such factors as changing ecological situation, new scientific or archaeological findings, or discovery of traditional boundaries not previously taken into account shall be made through an act of Congress, after consultation with the concerned government agencies.</p>	
<p><i>Sec. 7. Establishment of a Buffer Zone.</i> – There shall also be an established buffer zones surrounding the NASLEZ to provide extra protection around the area, where restrictions shall apply and communities can assist in repealing threats to the NASLEZ. Such buffer zones shall be managed according to the ecotourism and management plan formulated under this Act.</p> <p>Such buffer zone shall be included in the ecotourism development and management plan of the NASLEZ; Provided, that no build-up or reclamation detrimental to the diversity in the NASLEZ shall be done within the designated buffer zone. The Council shall exercise its authority over the designated buffer zone.</p>	

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<p>Sec. 8. <i>Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone Management Plan.</i> – The DENR and the DOT, in coordination with the DPWH and TIEZA, shall jointly assist the Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone Development Council, herein created, in the formulation of the ecotourism development and management plan for the NASLEZ that shall be complemented by a set of guidelines for responsible, community-based ecotourism. The tourism development and management plan shall ensure the preservation of the seascapes and landscapes and shall include the following components:</p>	
<p>(a) Carrying capacity of the seascapes and landscapes and its endemic and migratory birds species;</p>	
<p>(b) Specific site assessment, including terrestrial, underwater (biotic and abiotic), oceanographic, and other scientific site assessments;</p>	
<p>(c) Identification of strategic priorities;</p>	
<p>(d) Product development for local income generation;</p>	
<p>(e) Capacity building for the local community to allow residents therein to ably manage economically viable and responsible, community-based ecotourism business enterprises;</p>	

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<p>(f) Support for the formulation of local groups and networks, including the marketing and pricing of products;</p>	
<p>(g) Marketing strategies that reflect the natural, social, and environmental integrity of the NASLEZ;</p>	
<p>(h) Regular water quality monitoring of the seascapes;</p>	
<p>(i) Management and maintenance of the mangrove areas; and</p>	
<p>(j) Proper solid waste management in accordance with Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act; and,</p>	
<p>(k) Proper use, protection, preservation, and revival of water resources and implementation of a proper sewerage system in accordance with Republic Act No. 9275, or the Clean Water Act;</p>	
<p>The process of developing the ecotourism development and management plan for the NASLEZ shall be participatory, from the bottom up, with the framework to be provided by the DOT and DENR in consultation with the Northern Antique Tourism Management Zone Council herein created.</p>	

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<p>To protect the mangroves and forest in NASLEZ, the foreshore areas shall not be leased to any private entity Provided that sustainable use rental may be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Council;</p>	
<p><i>Sec. 9. Formation of the Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone Council.</i> - A multi-sectoral council to be known as the "Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone Council", hereinafter referred to as the Council, shall be created. It shall be composed of the following members:</p>	
<p>a. The Mayors of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall take turns serving as Chairperson;</p>	
<p>b. The heads of the Municipal Tourism Offices of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall take turns serving as Vice-chairpersons;</p>	
<p>c. The heads of the Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Office of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall likewise take turns serving as member;</p>	
<p>d. The Association of Barangay Chairmen (ABC) Presidents of the barangays of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall also serve alternately;</p>	

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<p>e. The Chairmen of the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall also serve alternately;</p> <p>Provided, That representatives from the LGUs as indicated in sub-sections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) above, coming from the same municipality, shall all together serve for the same period;</p>	
<p>f. The Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Officer of the Province of Antique;</p>	
<p>g. The Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB);</p>	
<p>h. The Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA);</p>	
<p>i. The Regional Director of DOT-Region 6;</p>	
<p>j. The Regional Director of DENR-Region 6;</p>	
<p>k. The Regional Director of DPWH-Region 6;</p>	
<p>l. The DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of Antique;</p>	

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<p>m. One representative from an academic institution, preferably from a state university or college in the Province of Antique, with proven track record in or related to protected seascapes and landscapes management;</p>	
<p>n. One representative from the private sector, a resident of the Province of Antique, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to protected seascapes and landscapes management; and,</p>	
<p>o. One representative from either a non-government organization (NGO) or People’s Organization (PO), duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial government of Antique. The NGO or PO represented should have been in existence for at least five (5) years with a proven track record in or related to seascapes and landscapes management.</p>	
<p>The <i>ex-officio</i> members of the Council by virtue of their elective or appointive government positions as specified in the immediately preceding subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) shall serve for the duration of their respective terms of office in their respective elective or appointive government positions.</p> <p>The members of the Council specified under subsections (m), (n), and (o) of this section shall be elected by the <i>ex-officio</i> members of the Council in a transparent</p>	

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and fair selection process. They shall each serve a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed for another term.

The members of the Council shall serve without compensation, except for the actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the Council or in connection with other official business authorized through a resolution of the Council, subject to existing rules and regulations. Each member shall have the full capacity and accountability for decisions binding to the member's sector. The members of the Council duly elected or appointed prior to the effectivity of this Act shall continue their term until the expiration of their term or appointment. Thereafter, members of the Council shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

A member of the Council may be removed for any of the following grounds:

- (a) More than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings of the Council;
- (b) Commission of acts prejudicial to the development and management of NASLEZ as embodied in existing rules and regulations governing NASLEZ;
- (c) Disassociation from the office or organization being represented;

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(d) Termination of relationship with the office or organization being represented; or	
(e) Conviction by final judgment of any criminal act.	
The local government of the Province of Antique shall provide a secretariat for the Council including the funding necessary to cover the expenses for the performance of its official functions and activities.	
<i>Sec. 10. Functions and Responsibilities of the NASLEZ Council.</i> – The Council shall be responsible for the following:	
(a) Formulation and the implementation of the ecotourism development and management plan in consultation with the local residents, businesses, and other stakeholders;	
(b) Assessment and evaluation of the potential impact of the development on the environmental safety and well-being of the seascapes and landscapes, communities, and enterprises;	
(c) Provision of technical and financial assistance to the communities within the seascapes and landscapes;	
(d) Implementation of a monitoring plan for the water birds and their habitats to ensure their presence and well-being in NASLEZ;	
(e) Formulation of the rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance and security of the ecotourism areas; and	

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<p>(f) Performance of other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.</p>	
<p>Sec. 11. <i>Formulation of Guidelines and Standards.</i> – The DENR and DOT shall assist the Council in the formulation of local ecotourism standards ensuring that environmental protection is integrated into the development and management of the ecotourism plans.</p> <p>The guidelines and standards shall:</p>	
<p>(a) Raise the capacity of all stakeholders and ensure that best practices are followed;</p>	
<p>(b) Ensure optimal use of water and energy;</p>	
<p>(c) Reduce waste and pollution through the encouragement of recycling and other environmentally-sound waste management reduction and disposal schemes;</p>	
<p>(d) Prevent vandalism in the facilities of the eco-park; and</p>	
<p>(e) Encourage the use of local produce and services, and support the employment of local people.</p>	

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Sec. 12. *Coordination with National Agencies.* - The DENR and the DOT shall closely coordinate with the Council, as well as the relevant regional offices of the DPWH, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and other line agencies of the government in the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR and the DOT, in consultation with the Council, other concerned government agencies, and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper and effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 14. *Appropriations.* — The Secretaries of the DENR, DOT, and DPWH and the Chief Operating Officer of TIEZA shall include in their subsidy programs, support for the capital outlay requirements of the NASLEZ for the preliminary implementation of this Act and enhancement of the facilities of the ecotourism zone which shall be taken from the budget of their respective agencies for the current fiscal year.

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<p>The budgetary allocations for the succeeding years shall be included in the General Appropriations Act, subject to a government audit.</p>	
<p>Sec. 15. <i>eNIPAS Process</i>. Nothing in this law shall be interpreted to mean cessation or interruption of the process for establishment as a protected area and the Council, the TIEZA and the DOT shall ensure that such process towards the eventual establishment of the Northern Antique Protected Seascapes and Landscapes shall be supported and the consultations therein made an integral part of their functions;</p>	
<p>Sec 16. <i>Separability Clause</i>. — If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.</p>	
<p>Sec. 17. <i>Repealing Clause</i>. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.</p>	
<p>Sec. 18. <i>Effectivity Clause</i>. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation or in the <i>Official Gazette</i>.</p>	
<p align="center"><i>Approved,</i></p>	