

23 MAY 16 P4:46

**SENATE**

**S. No. 2203**

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Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING MT. SAWTOOTH, LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF**  
**MAYANTOC AND SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF TARLAC AS A PROTECTED AREA**  
**UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE PURSUANT TO**  
**REPUBLIC ACT 7586 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 11038, OTHERWISE**  
**KNOW AS THE EXPANDED NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS**  
**SYSTEM ACT OF 2018, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, FUNDS AND**  
**FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Under the 1987 Philippine Constitution, it is a declared policy that the State “shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”<sup>1</sup> In line with safeguarding a healthful ecology, the Constitution likewise provides that Congress shall determine the national parks, which shall be conserved and may not be increased nor diminished, except by law.<sup>2</sup>

Pursuant to the said constitutional provisions, the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) was established by virtue of Republic Act (RA) No. 7586, as amended by RA No. 11038, otherwise known as the “Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018”. Cognizant of the exacting impact of diverse human activities on all components of the natural environment, the NIPAS Act declared it the policy of the State “to secure for

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<sup>1</sup> Article II, Section 16, 1987 Philippine Constitution

<sup>2</sup> Article XII, Sec. 3, 1987 Philippine Constitution

the Filipino people of present and future generations the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas within the classification of national park as provided for in the Constitution.” The system shall encompass ecologically rich, unique and biologically important areas that are habitats of threatened species of plants and animals, biogeographic zones and related ecosystems, whether terrestrial, wetland or marine, all of which shall be designated as ‘protected areas’.<sup>3</sup>

To date, as of May 2023, there are already 114 protected areas in the Philippines that have been so declared through legislation. And yet, based on the records and various suitability assessments by the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), there are still numerous sites in the country that have to be given ‘protected area’ status, by legislative action, in order to ensure its conservation.

Among these sites is the Tarlac portion of Mt. Tapulao, also known as Mt. Sawtooth. The current bill proposes its declaration as a protected area, to be renamed as the Mt. Sawtooth Protected Landscape. It has a contiguous area of Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Seven and 96/100 (10,967.96) hectares, covering the Municipalities of Mayantoc and San Jose, all within the province of Tarlac.

A Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA), along with a biological assessment conducted in 2019 by the Institute of Biology at the University of the Philippines Diliman, confirmed the presence of the Mottled-winged flying fox, Orange-fingered myotis, and *Rhynchomys tapulao*. These species are all endemic to Mt. Tapulao. Additionally, globally threatened species such as the Golden-capped fruit bat, Northern Rufous Hornbill, Philippine Deer, Luzon Bleeding-heart, Luzon Fanged Frog, and Warty pig are also found in this area.

The declaration of Mt. Sawtooth as a protected area serves multiple purposes. It not only aids biodiversity conservation but also supports irrigation and power

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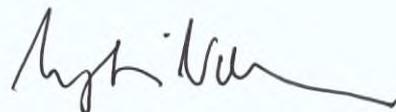
<sup>3</sup> Section 2, RA No. 7586, as amended by RA 11038

generation, acting as the headwater for the Balog-balog Multi-purpose Project. Mt. Sawtooth is also revered as the last biodiversity frontier of Tarlac.

To alleviate any potential adverse impacts on the area, it is crucial for the government to intervene, particularly in allocating funds for programs and projects aimed at the protection, management, maintenance, and preservation of the proposed site.

House Bill No. 2922, filed by Representatives Jaime Eduardo Marc D. Cojuangco (1st District, Tarlac), Christian Tell A. Yap (2nd District, Tarlac), and Noel "Bong" N. Rivera (3rd District, Tarlac), proposes to declare Mt. Sawtooth as a protected landscape. Recognizing the wisdom behind this bill, I am inspired to file a counterpart in the Senate and advocate for its passage.

In view of the foregoing, I recommend the approval of this bill.



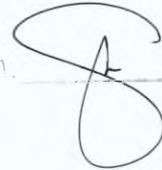
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**AN ACT**

**ESTABLISHING MT. SAWTOOTH, LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MAYANTOC AND SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF TARLAC AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT 7586 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 11038, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM ACT OF 2018, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, FUNDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           Section 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Mt. Sawtooth Protected  
2 Landscape (MSPL) Act of 2023."

3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The importance of the Mt. Sawtooth as the host  
4 of diverse plant and animal species with all their educational, aesthetic, cultural and  
5 religious significance, behooves the State to undertake steps to ensure the protection  
6 and conservation of this mountain and its associated forest, its biodiversity, and the  
7 integrity of its ecosystems and associated cultural and religious practices.

8           Sec. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* - The Mt. Sawtooth Protected Landscape,  
9 including its buffer zones, as well as its technical description shall be subject to actual  
10 ground survey and demarcation, as fully determined by the Department of  
11 Environment and Natural Resources (DE.NR) Region III.

1 Beginning at a point marked "1" on the map being S 78°51'05" W, 13,763.24  
2 meters from PRS Control Monument TRC-82 (15°35'22.59763" Latitude and  
3 120°20'22.53348" Longitude) located in Barangay Maniniog, Municipality of Mayantoc,  
4 Province of Tarlac,

thence	S 56°50'16" E	967.16	meters to corner	2 ;
thence	S 32°13'45" E	315.13	meters to corner	3 ;
thence	S 07°16'50" E	313.65	meters to corner	4 ;
thence	S 56°09'05" E	468.39	meters to corner	5 ;
thence	S 13°18'50" E	170.35	meters to corner	6 ;
thence	N 84°53'31" E	307.97	meters to corner	7 ;
thence	S 81°55'59" E	323.68	meters to corner	8 ;
thence	S 27°49'57" W	582.01	meters to corner	9 ;
thence	S 45°47'41" W	252.52	meters to corner	10 ;
thence	S 54°11'56" W	155.19	meters to corner	11 ;
thence	S 12°29'11" E	178.73	meters to corner	12 ;
thence	S 17°23'31" W	198.88	meters to corner	13 ;
thence	S 50°14'24" E	284.01	meters to corner	14 ;
thence	S 61°44'20" W	255.87	meters to corner	15 ;
thence	S 23°08'14" W	279.28	meters to corner	16 ;
thence	S 35°55'16" E	376.55	meters to corner	17 ;
thence	S 81°45'40" E	276.75	meters to corner	18 ;
thence	S 41°46'38" E	477.66	meters to corner	19 ;
thence	S 11°24'46" E	189.7	meters to corner	20 ;
thence	S 27°48'11" W	532.92	meters to corner	21 ;
thence	S 68°20'42" W	165.7	meters to corner	22 ;

thence	S 28°41'32" W	182	meters to corner	23 ;
thence	N 83°51'21" W	506.96	meters to corner	24 ;
thence	S 84°52'11" W	201.24	meters to corner	25 ;
thence	S 18°40'05" W	120.82	meters to corner	26 ;
thence	S 47°15'24" E	393.34	meters to corner	27 ;
thence	S 35°52'49" E	136.47	meters to corner	28 ;
thence	S 17°46'15" E	311.65	meters to corner	29 ;
thence	S 26°06'22" W	139.18	meters to corner	30 ;
thence	S 56°59'36" W	388.55	meters to corner	31 ;
thence	N 83°24'24" W	137.3	meters to corner	32 ;
thence	N 24°03'54" W	350.52	meters to corner	33 ;
thence	S 58°09'07" W	329.34	meters to corner	34 ;
thence	S 32°11'06" E	363.07	meters to corner	35 ;
thence	S 64°11'43" E	285.92	meters to corner	36 ;
thence	N 75°15'07" E	245.01	meters to corner	37 ;
thence	S 30°32'27" E	51.51	meters to corner	38 ;
thence	S 49°09'46" W	309.74	meters to corner	39 ;
thence	S 70°46'21" W	481.39	meters to corner	40 ;
thence	S 20°22'45" E	220.08	meters to corner	41 ;
thence	N 73°47'24" E	513.41	meters to corner	42 ;
thence	N 84°11'05" E	232.6	meters to corner	43 ;
thence	S 02°17'10" W	864.92	meters to corner	44 ;
thence	S 45°52'25" W	1336.43	meters to corner	45 ;
thence	S 10°38'47" E	570.81	meters to corner	46 ;

thence	S 53°02'33" W	514.8	meters to corner	47 ;
thence	S 21°07'06" E	862.91	meters to corner	48 ;
thence	S 11°45'13" W	533.54	meters to corner	49 ;
thence	S 87°48'21" E	420.2	meters to corner	50 ;
thence	S 53°46'50" E	512.34	meters to corner	51 ;
thence	S 07°26'51" W	303.73	meters to corner	52 ;
thence	S 23°00'53" E	498.67	meters to corner	53 ;
thence	S 32°18'38" W	808.94	meters to corner	54 ;
thence	S 29°13'39" E	531.27	meters to corner	55 ;
thence	S 24°45'37" W	546.66	meters to corner	56 ;
thence	S 00°12'42" W	729.42	meters to corner	57 ;
thence	S 18°40'23" E	692.5	meters to corner	58 ;
thence	S 02°26'57" W	545.07	meters to corner	59 ;
thence	S 73°34'05" E	874.55	meters to corner	60 ;
thence	S 26°43'04" E	859.02	meters to corner	61 ;
thence	S 30°52'24" W	947.68	meters to corner	62 ;
thence	S 58°58'55" E	388.16	meters to corner	63 ;
thence	N 44°09'04" E	442.45	meters to corner	64 ;
thence	N 65°08'39" E	310.77	meters to corner	65 ;
thence	S 84°43'04" E	1674.16	meters to corner	66 ;
thence	S 16°53'03" E	3323.64	meters to corner	67 ;
thence	S 09°31'54" E	1404.72	meters to corner	68 ;
thence	S 87°12'07" W	5478.82	meters to corner	69 ;
thence	N 15°35'40" W	689.11	meters to corner	70 ;

thence	N 14°23'56" E	838.19	meters to corner	71 ;
thence	N 07°27'23" W	381.92	meters to corner	72 ;
thence	N 15°36'08" E	563.83	meters to corner	73 ;
thence	S 53°42'34" W	1650.05	meters to corner	74 ;
thence	N 71°47'43" W	5651.53	meters to corner	75 ;
thence	N 01°35'44" W	3759.5	meters to corner	76 ;
thence	N 07°48'33" E	2540.5	meters to corner	77 ;
thence	N 29°08'44" E	4579.25	meters to corner	78 ;
thence	N 27°30'23" E	4865.06	meters to corner	79 ;
thence	N 24°08'04" E	4398.23	meters to corner	1

1 the point of beginning, containing an area of TWELVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED  
2 SEVENTY-SIX (12,676) hectares, more or less. Bearings and Distances of lines were  
3 derived using the PRS 1992 Philippines Zone III coordinate system, subject to the  
4 actual ground demarcation.

5 The DENR shall likewise appropriately mark on the ground the technical  
6 description of Mt. Sawtooth with clearly visible markers and shall prepare appropriate  
7 maps therefore.

8 All lands comprising the MSPL shall fall under the classification of National Park  
9 as provided for in the Philippine Constitution, subject to prior right.

10 Sec. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - For the purposes of this Act, the following terms  
11 shall be defined as follows:

12 a) "*Biological diversity*" or "*biodiversity*" refers to the variability among the  
13 living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine  
14 and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which  
15 they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and  
16 of ecosystems;

- 1           b)    *"Bioprospecting"* refers to the research, collection, and utilization of  
2                   biological and genetic resources for purposes of applying the knowledge  
3                   derived therefrom solely for commercial purposes;
- 4           c)    *"Buffer zones"* refers to identified areas outside the boundaries of and  
5                   immediately adjacent to designated protected areas that need special  
6                   development control in order to avoid or minimize harm to the protected  
7                   area;
- 8           d)    *"By-products" or "Derivatives"* refers to parts taken or substances  
9                   extracted from wildlife, in raw or in processed form;
- 10          e)    *"Collecting"* refers to the act of gathering or harvesting wildlife and its  
11                   by-products or derivatives;
- 12          f)    *"Conveyance"* refers to every kind of vessel, including motorized or non-  
13                   motorized vehicles, mm-displacement crafts and seaplanes that are used  
14                   or may be used as a means of transportation on land or water. It shall  
15                   include everything found therein except personal effects;
- 16          g)    *"Delineation"* refers to the actual ground survey of the boundaries of  
17                   protected areas and their buffer zones and management zones using the  
18                   global positioning system (GPS) or other applicable survey instruments  
19                   and technologies, with the intention of producing a map of the area;
- 20          h)    *"Demarcation"* refers to the establishment of the boundaries of protected  
21                   areas and their buffer zones using visible markers, monuments, buoys  
22                   in case of marine areas, and known natural features and landmarks,  
23                   among others, as a result of the actual ground delineation;
- 24          i)    *"Ecosystem goods and services"* refers to the multitude of material and  
25                   nonmaterial provisions and benefits from healthy ecosystems necessary  
26                   for human sustenance, well- being, and survival, including support  
27                   processes, provisioning and environment regulating services, and  
28                   cultural resource preservation services.

- 1 j) *"Endemic species"* refers to the species or subspecies of flora and fauna  
2 which are naturally occurring and found within specific areas in the  
3 country;
- 4 k) *"Exotic species"* refers to the species or subspecies of flora and fauna  
5 which do not naturally occur within the protected area at present or in  
6 historical time;
- 7 l) *"Exploration"* refers to the act of searching or prospecting for mineral  
8 resources, as defined by law, by geological, geochemical or geophysical  
9 surveys, remote sensing, test pitting, trenching, drilling, shaft sinking,  
10 tunneling, or any other means, for the purpose of determining the  
11 existence, extent, quantity, and quality of resources in an area, and the  
12 feasibility of utilizing these resources for profit;
- 13 m) *"Gear"* refers to any instrument or device and its accessories utilized in  
14 taking, catching gathering, killing, hunting, destroying, disturbing,  
15 removing, or possessing resources within the protected area;
- 16 n) *"Genetically modified organism (GMO)"* refers to any living organism that  
17 possesses a novel combination of genetic material through the use of  
18 modern biotechnology;
- 19 o) *"Hunting"* refers to the killing or catching of wild fauna for food and  
20 recreational purposes, with the use of weapons such as guns, bow and  
21 arrow, spears, traps and snares, and the like;
- 22 p) *"Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC)/Indigenous People (IP)"* refers to  
23 a group of people sharing common bonds of language, customs,  
24 traditions, and other distinctive cultural traits, and who have, since time  
25 immemorial occupied, possessed and utilized a territory;
- 26 q) *"Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF)"* refers to the special account  
27 established for the purpose of financing projects of the NIPAS and  
28 individual protected areas;

- 1 r) *"Invasive alien species"* refers to species introduced deliberately or  
2 unintentionally outside their natural habitats where they have the ability  
3 to establish themselves, invade, outcompete native species, and take  
4 over the new environment;
- 5 s) *"Kaingin"* refers to the slash-and-burn cultivation of vegetated land in a  
6 protected area, whether occupied or not, shifting and permanent with  
7 little or no provision to prevent soil erosion;
- 8 t) *"Multiple-use zone"* refers to the area where settlement, traditional and  
9 sustainable land use including agriculture, agroforestry, extraction  
10 activities, and income generating or livelihood activities, may be allowed  
11 to the extent prescribed in the protected area management plan;
- 12 u) *"National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS)"* refers to the  
13 classification and administration of all designated protected areas to  
14 maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems, to  
15 preserve genetic diversity, to ensure sustainable use of resources found  
16 therein, and to maintain their natural conditions to the greatest extent  
17 possible;
- 18 v) *"National Park"* refers to the lands of the public domain classified as such  
19 in the Constitution which include all areas under the NIPAS pursuant to  
20 this Act, primarily designated for the conservation of native plants and  
21 animals, their associated habitats and cultural diversity;
- 22 w) *"Occupying"* refers to a continuous stay of individuals or groups within a  
23 protected area, whether residing or engaging in the cultivation of land  
24 or fishing for more that twenty-four (24) hours;
- 25 x) *"Poaching"* refers to gathering, collecting, or possessing products or  
26 natural resources from the protected area by any individual person,  
27 corporation or entity whether local or foreign; in the case of marine

1 protected areas, operating any foreign fishing vessels by any person,  
2 corporation, or entity without a permit;

3 y) "*Protected area*" refers to identified portions of land and/or water set  
4 aside by reason of their unique physical and biological diversity and  
5 protected against destructive human exploitation:

6 z) "*Protected area occupants*" refers to persons who are residing, utilizing,  
7 and cultivating areas within the protected area. These include private  
8 owners, IPs, tenured migrants and informal settlers;

9 aa) "*Protected area retained income account*" refers to the trust fund  
10 maintained by any protected area and administered by the respective  
11 Protected Area Management Boards (PAMB) created pursuant to this Act  
12 representing the seventy-five percent (75%) of revenues generated from  
13 the protected area to support its operation and management;

14 bb) "*Protected landscapes*" refers to areas of national significance which are  
15 characterized by the harmonious interaction of man and land while  
16 providing opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation,  
17 tourism, and other economic activities;

18 cc) "*Protected species*" refers to plants or animals declared protected  
19 under Philippine laws, rules, and regulations. These shall include all  
20 species listed under the Convention on International Trade in  
21 Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and all its Annexes, the  
22 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), those  
23 specified under the red-list categories of the International Union for  
24 Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the DENR, PAMB or any  
25 government agency that may deem it necessary for conservation and  
26 preservation in the protected area;

- 1 dd) *"Quarrying"* refers to the process of extracting, removing, and disposing  
2 sand gravel, guano, limestone, and all other resources used as building  
3 and construction materials that are found within the protected area;
- 4 ee) *"Resource reserve"* refers to an extensive, relatively isolated, and  
5 uninhabited area which is difficult to access and is designated to protect  
6 the natural resources of the area for future use and prevent or contain  
7 development activities that could affect the resources, pending the  
8 establishment of sustainable resources utilization goals which are based  
9 upon appropriate information and planning;
- 10 ff) *"Special Account in the General Fund (SAGO)"* refers to the trust fund  
11 deposited in the national treasury representing the twenty-five percent  
12 (25%) of revenues generated from the operation of individual protected  
13 area and earmarked to support the NIPAS;
- 14 gg) *"Tenured migrants"* refers to protected area occupants who have been  
15 actually, continuously and presently occupying a portion of the protected  
16 area for five (5) years before the proclamation or law establishing the  
17 same as a protected area, and are solely dependent therein for  
18 subsistence;
- 19 hh) *"Threatened species"* refers to species or subspecies considered  
20 critically endangered, vulnerable, or other accepted categories of wildlife  
21 whose population is at risk of extinction;
- 22 ii) *"Wildlife"* refers to the wild forms and varieties of flora and fauna, in all  
23 developmental stages, including those who which are in capacity or are  
24 being bred, fed, or propagated; and
- 25 jj) *"Wildlife sanctuary"* refers to an area which assures the natural  
26 conditions necessary to protect nationally significant species, group of  
27 species, biotic communities or physical features of the environment  
28 which may require specific human manipulations for their perpetuation.

1            *Sec. 5. Management Plan.* - Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act,  
2 a management plan shall have been formulated to serve as the basic long-term  
3 framework plan for the management of the MSPL and guide in the preparation of  
4 its annual operations plan and budget.

5            The management plan shall, at the minimum, promote the adoption and  
6 implementation of innovative management techniques including, when necessary,  
7 zoning, buffer zone management habitat conservation and rehabilitation, diversity  
8 management, community organizing and development, socioeconomic and scientific  
9 research, site-specific policy development, climate change adaptation and  
10 mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management, waste sewerage and septic  
11 management, and gender and development, among others.

12            The plan shall be harmonized with the Ancestral Domain Sustainable  
13 Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) required under Republic Act No. 8371, or  
14 the "Indigenous People's Right Act of 1997", the respective Comprehensive Land Use  
15 Plans (CL UPs) of local governments required under Republic Act No. 7160 or the  
16 "Local Government Code of 1991," and other local plans.

17            *Sec. 6. Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).* - Within three (3) months  
18 after the effectivity of this Act, a PAMB shall be created for MSPL. The PAMB shall be  
19 composed of the following:

- 20            a)        DENR Regional Executive Director of DENR Region III, as Chairperson;
- 21            b)        Governor of Tarlac Province or a duly designated representative;
- 22            c)        A Senator of the Republic of the Philippines who is a duly registered  
23            resident of Region III or a duly authorized representative, unless the  
24            Senator declines membership in the PAMB;
- 25            d)        The District Representative of Tarlac Province or a duly designated  
26            representative, unless the District Representative declines membership  
27            in the PAMB;

- 1 e) Mayors of Mayantoc, Tarlac and San Jose, Tarlac or their duly designated  
2 representative/s;
- 3 f) Chairperson/s of the barangay/s covering the area of MSPL,
- 4 g) Regional Directors of the following government agencies, namely: the  
5 Department of Agriculture (DA), the National Economic and  
6 Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Science and  
7 Technology (DOST), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Department  
8 of National Defense (DND), the National Commission on Indigenous  
9 Peoples (NCIP) and the Department of Tourism (DOT);
- 10 h) Three (3) representatives from relevant non-government organizations  
11 (NGOs) or peoples' organizations (POs), duly accredited by both the  
12 DENR and the provincial government. The NGO or PO represented  
13 should have been in existence for at least five (5) years and with track  
14 record in or related to protected area management:
- 15 i) At least one (1), but not more than three (3), representatives from all  
16 the IPs/ICCs present in the area and recognized by the National  
17 Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- 18 j) One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a  
19 university or college in Tarlac, with proven track record in or related to  
20 the protected area management; and
- 21 k) One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of  
22 Tarlac, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant  
23 to the protected area management.

24 Ex officio members or members of the PAMB by virtue of their elective or  
25 appointive government positions as specified in the immediately preceding  
26 subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) shall serve for the duration of  
27 their respective terms of office in their respective elective or appointive government  
28 positions.

1 On the other hand, the members of the PAMB specified under subparagraphs  
2 (i), (j), (k) and (l) of this section shall be appointed by the DENR Secretary after the  
3 conduct of a transparent and fair selection process. They shall each serve a term of  
4 three (3) years and may be reappointed for another term.

5 The members of the PAMB shall serve without compensation, except for the  
6 actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance  
7 of their duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the PAMI3 or in connection  
8 with other official business authorized through a resolution of the PAMB, subject to  
9 existing rules and regulations. Each member shall have the full capacity and  
10 accountability for decisions binding to the member's sector.

11 Members of the management board shall be appointed in accordance with the  
12 provisions of this Act: *Provided*, that the Regional Executive Director of the DENR  
13 Region III shall ensure that the relevant members of the PAMB are duly appointed by  
14 the DENR Secretary: *Provided, Further*, that at least forty percent (40%) of the PAMB  
15 members shall be women, pursuant to Republic Act No. 9710 or "The Magna Carta of  
16 Women." A member of the PAMB may be removed for any of the following grounds:

- 17 a) More than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regular  
18 meetings of the management board;
- 19 b) Commission of acts prejudicial to the management of protected areas as  
20 embodied in Section 20 hereof and/or other existing rules and regulations  
21 governing protected areas;
- 22 c) Disassociation from the office or organization being represented;
- 23 d) Termination of relationship with the office or organization being  
24 represented; or
- 25 e) Conviction by final judgment of any criminal act.

26 *Sec. 7. Powers and Functions of the PAMB.* - The PAMB shall have the following  
27 powers and functions:

- 1 a) Oversee the management of the protected area;
- 2 b) Approve policies, plans and programs, proposals, agreements, and other  
3 related documents for the management of the protected areas;
- 4 c) Approve the management plan of the protected area and ensure its  
5 harmonization and integration with the ADSDPP, land use plan and other  
6 development plan public or private, and its implementation;
- 7 d) Adopt a manual of operations to include rules of procedures in the  
8 conduct of business, and the creation of committees and their respective  
9 terms of reference;
- 10 e) Recommend the deputation of appropriate agencies and individuals for  
11 the enforcement of the laws, rules and regulations governing the  
12 management of protected area;
- 13 f) Allocate financial resources for the implementation of the management  
14 plan and manage the Protected Area Retention Income Account and  
15 other funds in accordance with the accounting and budgeting rules and  
16 regulations;
- 17 g) Set fees and charges in accordance with the existing guidelines;
- 18 h) Issue rules and regulations for the resolution of conflicts through  
19 appropriate and effective means;
- 20 i) Recommend appropriate policy changes to the DENR and other  
21 governing authorities;
- 22 j) Monitor and assess the performance of the protected area personnel and  
23 compliance of partners with the terms and conditions of any undertaking,  
24 contract or agreement;
- 25 k) Recommend from among a shortlist of qualified candidates, the  
26 designation or appointment of the PASu; and

1 l) Assess the effectiveness of the management of the protected area:  
2 *Provided*, that the members of the management board representing the  
3 LGUs and national agencies in the PAMB shall inform their respective  
4 constituents, offices or sectors, of PAMB-approved or other relevant  
5 policies, rules, regulations, programs, and projects and shall ensure that  
6 the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations are  
7 complied with and used as reference and framework in their respective  
8 plans, policies, programs, and projects. Failure to comply with the  
9 foregoing shall be the basis for disciplinary action against such member  
10 according to administrative rules and regulations and such penalties as  
11 the PAMB may provide: *Provided, further*, that the DENR. through the  
12 Regional Executive Director, shall ensure that the PAMB acts within the  
13 scope of its powers and functions, In case of conflict between the  
14 resolutions issued by the PAMB and the existing administrative orders of  
15 national application, the latter shall prevail.

16 *Sec. 8. The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO).* - There is hereby  
17 established Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) to be headed by a Protected  
18 Area Superintendent (PASU) with a permanent plantilla position who shall supervise  
19 the management, protection, and administration of the protected area. A sufficient  
20 number of support staff with permanent plantilla position shall be appointed by the  
21 DENR to assist the PASu in the management of the protected area.

22 The PASu shall be primarily accountable to the PAMB and the DENR for the  
23 management and operations of the MSPL. Pursuant thereto, the PASu shall have the  
24 following duties and responsibilities:

25 a) Lead the preparation of the management plan, in consultation with the  
26 stakeholders, including the annual work and financial plans and ensure  
27 its implementation;

- 1           b)    Ensure the integration of the protected area management plans,  
2                    programs, projects, and policies with relevant national and LGUs' plans  
3                    and programs;
- 4           c)    Provide secretariat services to the PAMB and its committees and ensure  
5                    the availability of relevant and timely information for decision-making;
- 6           d)    Formulate and recommend to the PAMB proposed policies, rules,  
7                    regulations, and programs;
- 8           e)    Establish, operate, and maintain a database management system which  
9                    shall be an important basis for decision-making;
- 10          f)    Enforce the laws, rules and regulations relevant to the protected area,  
11                    commence and institute administrative and legal actions in collaboration  
12                    with other government agencies or organizations, and assist in the  
13                    prosecution of offenses committed in violation of this Act;
- 14          g)    Monitor, evaluate, and report the implementation of management  
15                    activities of MSPL;
- 16          h)    Request for and receive any technical assistance support or advice from  
17                    any agency or instrumentality of the government as well as academic  
18                    institutions, NGOs, and the private sector, as may be necessary for the  
19                    effective management, protection and administration of MSPL;
- 20          i)    Issue permits and clearances for activities that implement the  
21                    management plan and other permitted activities in accordance with  
22                    terms, conditions, and criteria established by the PAMB: Provided, that  
23                    all permits for extraction activities, including collection for research  
24                    purposes, shall also continue to be relevant authorities, subject to prior  
25                    clearance from the PAMB, through the PASu, in accordance with the  
26                    specific acts to be covered;

- 1           j)     Collect and/or receive pertinent fees, charges, donations, and other  
2           income for the protected area: Provided, that such fees, charges,  
3           donations, and other income collected/received shall be reported  
4           regularly to the PAMB and the DENR in accordance with existing  
5           guidelines;
- 6           k)     Prepare and recommend to the management plan: and
- 7           l)     Perform such other functions as the PAMB and the DENR may assign.

8           The PAMO may be augmented by the deputized local environment and natural  
9           resources officers upon the recommendation of the PAMB and approval of the DENR.

10           *Sec. 9. Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF).* - There is hereby established a  
11           trust fund to be known as Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF) for the purpose of  
12           financing the projects and sustaining the operations of MSPL. Income generated from  
13           the operation and management of MSPL Shall accrue to the MSPL-IPAF. The income  
14           shall be derived from fees and charges from the use of resources and facilities of  
15           MSPL; contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting from the MSPL;  
16           and such other fees and income derived from the operation of the MSPL.

17           The PAMB shall retain seventy-five percent (75%) of all revenues raised  
18           through the above means, which shall be deposited in the Protected Area-Retained  
19           Income Account (PA-RIA) in any authorized government depository bank within the  
20           locality: Provided, that disbursement out of such deposits shall be used solely for the  
21           protection, maintenance, administration, and management of the MSPL and  
22           implementation of duly approved projects of the PAMB.

23           Grants, donations, and endowments from various sources, domestic or foreign,  
24           shall be deposited in full in a special account in the National Treasury to be used for  
25           the purpose specified in the deeds and instruments covering them.

26           Voluntary or legislated payments for ecosystem goods and services, including  
27           fines, penalties, and compensation for damages from MSPL offenses shall accrue fully  
28           to the PA-RIA and shall be managed by the PAMB.

1           The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of revenues shall be deposited as a  
2 special account in the General Fund in the National Treasury for purposes of financing  
3 the projects of the System.

4           The use of the IPAF shall be in accordance with existing accounting, budgeting,  
5 and auditing rules and regulations: Provided, further, that the IPAF shall not be used  
6 to cover personal services expenditures.

7           The DENR shall submit to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)  
8 and the Department of Finance (DOF), quarterly reports on the financial and physical  
9 accomplishments on the utilization of the IPAF and other documents as may be  
10 required by the DBM, and shall furnish a copy of the same to the House Committee  
11 on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance.

12           Sec. 10. *Tax Exemptions.* - All grants, bequests and endowments, donations  
13 and contributions made to the protected area fund to be used actually, directly, and  
14 the MSPL, shall be exempted from donor's tax and shall be considered as allowable  
15 deduction from the gross income of the donor for the purpose of computing the  
16 taxable income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal  
17 Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

18           Sec. 11. *Special Prosecutors and Retained Counsel.* - Within thirty (30) days  
19 from the effectivity of this Act, the DOJ shall appoint special prosecutors to prosecute  
20 violations of laws, rules and regulations in MSPI. The special prosecutors shall  
21 coordinate with the PAMB and the PASu in the performance of duties and assist in the  
22 training of wardens and rangers in arrest and criminal procedures. The PAMB may  
23 retain the services of counsel to prosecute and assist in the prosecution of cases under  
24 the direct control and supervision of the regular of Special prosecutor. Said counsel  
25 shall also represent and defend the members of the PAMB, PASu and the staff, or any  
26 DENR-deputized individual and volunteer, against any legal action arising from the  
27 performance of their powers, functions and responsibilities as provided in this Act.

1           Sec. 12. *Prohibited Acts.* - Except as may be allowed by the nature of their  
2 categories and pursuant to rules and regulations governing the same, the following  
3 acts are prohibited within MSPL:

- 4           a)     Poaching, killing, destroying, disturbing of any wildlife including in  
5                 private lands within the MSPL;
- 6           b)     Hunting, taking, collecting, or possessing of any wildlife, or by-products  
7                 derived therefrom, including in private lands within MSPL without the  
8                 necessary permit, authorization or exemption: Provided, that the PASu  
9                 as authorized by the PAMB shall issue a permit, authorization or  
10                exemption only for culling, scientific research, the exceptions provided  
11                under Section 27(a) of Republic Act No. 9147 (Wildlife Resources,  
12                Conservation and Protection Act) or harvests of non-protected species in  
13                multiple-use zones by tenured migrants and IPs;
- 14          c)     Cutting, gathering, removing or collecting timber within MSPL including  
15                 private lands therein, without the necessary permit, authorization,  
16                 certification of planted trees or exemption such as for culling exotic  
17                 species; except, however, when such acts are done in accordance with  
18                 the duly recognized practices of the IPs/ICCs for subsistence purposes;
- 19          d)     Possessing or transporting outside MSPL any timber, forest products,  
20                 wildlife, or by-products derived therefrom which are ascertained to have  
21                 been taken from MSPL other than exotic species, the culling of which has  
22                 been authorized under an appropriate permit;
- 23          e)     Using any harvesting tool or any variations that destroys terrestrial  
24                 habitat as may be determined by the DA or the DENR; Provided, that  
25                 mere possession of such tools within MSPL, shall be prim facie evidence  
26                 of their use;
- 27          f)     Dumping, throwing, using, or causing to be dumped into or placed in  
28                 MSPL of any toxic chemical, noxious or poisonous substance or non-

- 1 biodegradable material, untreated sewage or animal waste or products  
2 whether in liquid, solid or gas state, including pesticides and other  
3 hazardous substances as defined under Republic Act No. 6969,  
4 otherwise known as the "Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear  
5 Waste Control Act of 1990" detrimental to MSPL, or to the plants and  
6 animals or inhabitants therein;
- 7 g) Operating any motorized conveyance within MSPL without permit from  
8 the PAMB, except when the use of such motorized conveyance is the  
9 only practical means of transportation of IPs/ICCs in accessing their  
10 ancestral domain/land;
- 11 h) Altering, removing, destroying or defacing boundary marks or signs  
12 within MSPL;
- 13 i) Engaging in kaingin or in any manner, causing forest fires inside MSPL;
- 14 j) Mutilating, defacing, destroying, excavating, vandalizing or, in any  
15 manner damaging any natural formation, religious, spiritual, historical  
16 sites, artifacts and other objects of natural beauty, scenic value or  
17 objects of interest to IPs/ICCs;
- 18 k) Damaging and leaving roads and trails in damaged condition;
- 19 l) Littering or depositing refuse or debris on the ground or in bodies of  
20 water/river system;
- 21 m) Possessing or using blasting caps or explosives anywhere within MSPL;
- 22 n) Occupying or dwelling in any public land within MSPL without clearance  
23 from the PAMB;
- 24 o) Constructing, erecting, or maintaining any kind of structure, fence or  
25 enclosure, conducting any business enterprise within MSPL without prior  
26 clearance from the PAMB and permit from the DENR, or conducting these

1 activities in a manner that is inconsistent with the management plan duly  
2 approved by the PAMB;

3 p) Undertaking mineral exploration or extraction within MSPL

4 q) Engaging in commercial or large-scale quarrying within MSPL;

5 r) Establishing or introducing exotic species, including CMOs or invasive  
6 alien species within MSPL;

7 s) Conducting bioprospecting within MSPL without prior PAMB clearance in  
8 accordance with existing guidelines: Provided, that in addition to the  
9 penalty provided herein, any commercial use of any substance derived  
10 from non-permitted bioprospecting within a protected area will not be  
11 allowed and all revenue earned from illegal commercialization thereof  
12 shall be forfeited and deposited as part of the IPAI';

13 t) Prospecting, hunting or otherwise locating hidden treasure within MSPL;

14 u) Purchasing or selling, mortgaging or leasing lands or other portions of  
15 MSPL which are covered by any tenurial instrument; and

16 v) Constructing any permanent structure within the forty (40)-meter  
17 easement from any natural body of water (river) or issuing a permit for  
18 such construction pursuant to Article 31 of Presidential Decree No. 1067.

19 Sec. 13. *Penalties.* - Violation under this Act shall be subject to the following  
20 penalties:

21 a) A fine of not less than Two hundred thousand pesos (Php 200,000) but  
22 not more than one million pesos (Php 1,000,000) or imprisonment from  
23 one (1) year but not more than six (6) years, or both, plus damages of  
24 triple the value of the said resources, or both, shall be imposed upon any  
25 person who violates paragraphs (a) to (e) of Section 20 of the NIPAS Act  
26 as amended;

- 1           b) A fine of not less than Two hundred thousand pesos (Php 200,000) but  
2           not more than One million pesos (Php 1,000,000) or imprisonment from  
3           one (1) year but not more than six (6) years, or both, shall be imposed  
4           upon any person who violates paragraphs (f) to (p) of Section 20 of the  
5           NIPAS Act as amended;
- 6           c) A fine of Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000) daily shall be imposed on the  
7           owner of existing facilities within a protected area under Section 24 of this  
8           Act, if the existence of the same and its future plans and operations will  
9           be detrimental to MSPL. For every continuing violation, or if the violation  
10          continues to be committed for thirty (30) days and upon reaching a total  
11          tine of Five hundred thousand pesos (Php 500,000), the PAMB through  
12          the PASu and other deputized government entities, shall cause the  
13          cessation of operation and either forfeit in favor of the PAMO or demolish  
14          the facility at the cost of its owner. If the facility is government-owned,  
15          the agency in charge shall submit a plan for a substitute facility that  
16          complies with the protected area standards and, within one (1) year,  
17          execute the approved protected area management plan;
- 18          d) Administrative fines of not less Fifty thousand pesos (Flip 50,000), but not  
19          exceeding Five million pesos (Php 5,000,000), shall be imposed by the  
20          DENR Secretary for the violation of any rule, regulation, or provision of  
21          any agreement reached with the PAMB: Provided, that if an area which  
22          has sustained damage from any activity conducted therein requires  
23          rehabilitation or restoration as determined by the court, the offender shall  
24          be required to restore or pay compensation for damage, which payment  
25          shall accrue to the IPAF.

26           On the basis of a court order, the DENR shall cause the eviction of an offender  
27           from the MSPL: Provided, that in cases of emergency, the DENR Secretary may order  
28           the immediate exit or departure of the offender from MSPL. The DENR Secretary may  
29           call on other enforcement agencies to assist in executing the order to vacate.

1 An emergency occurs when there is a demonstrated impending threat to human  
2 life and biodiversity or to species found within the ecosystem of the MSPL.

3 All minerals, timber or species collected or removed from the MSPL, including  
4 all equipment, devices, conveyances, and firearms used in connection therewith, shall  
5 be forfeited in favor of the government, and any construction or improvement made  
6 thereon by the offender shall be subject to confiscation by the PAMO, subject to the  
7 application of due process.

8 The conveyance, equipment, paraphernalia, implements, tools, and similar  
9 devices used in the commission of the crime shall be dealt with in accordance with  
10 Part 4, Rule 12 (Custody and Disposition of Seized Items, Equipment, Paraphernalia,  
11 Conveyance and Instruments) of Administrative Matter No. 09-6-8-SC (Rules of  
12 Procedures for Environmental Cases) issued by the Supreme Court. However, in no  
13 case shall any confiscated or rescued protected animal species be sold or in any  
14 manner disposed of but shall be immediately turned over to the PAMO for  
15 rehabilitation and release to its natural habitat, subject to existing regulations.  
16 Valuation of the damages shall take into account biodiversity and conservation  
17 considerations as well as aesthetic and scenic value. The valuation and assessment by  
18 the DENR, in coordination with other concerned government agencies, shall be  
19 presumed regular, unless otherwise proven by the preponderance of evidence.

20 If the offender is an association or corporation, the president or manager, who  
21 is proven to have participated in or have actual knowledge of any violations against  
22 the provisions of this Act shall be directly liable for the act of the employees and  
23 laborers: Provided, finally, that the DENR may impose administrative fines and  
24 penalties consistent with this Act.

25 Any person who shall induce another or conspire to commit any of the acts  
26 prohibited in this Act, or force their workers to commit any of the same, shall be liable  
27 as principal.

28 The penalties specified in this section shall be in addition to the penalties  
29 provided in Republic Act No. 9072 or the "National Caves and Cave Resources

1 Management and Protection Act", Republic Act No. 9147 or the "Wildlife Resources  
2 Conservation and Protection Act," Republic Act No. 8550 or the "Philippine Fisheries  
3 Code of 1998 and other related laws.

4 The conviction of a public officer of the law, whether from the LGU or any  
5 national government agency, for any violation of the provisions of this Act shall carry  
6 the accessory penalty of perpetual disqualification from public office.

7 Sec. 14. *Existing Rights.* - All property and private rights within the MSPL and  
8 its buffer zones already existing and/or vested upon the effectivity of this Act shall be  
9 protected and respected in accordance with existing laws: Provided, that the exercise  
10 of such property and private rights shall be harmonized, as far as practicable, with the  
11 provisions of this Act. Notwithstanding this Act, all existing rights, contracts, or  
12 agreements entered into by government for utilization of natural resources within  
13 MSPL shall continue to be recognized and governed by Philippine laws.

14 The renewal of permits, contracts, and agreements shall be subject to the  
15 provisions of this Act. If the permits, contracts, agreements are not renewed, such  
16 areas shall be rehabilitated or restored by the permit holders within the period  
17 provided by the pertinent laws and shall revert to the national parks classification. As  
18 such, all holders of permits, contracts, and agreements are required to prepare and  
19 submit a rehabilitation plan to the PAMB: Provided, that upon renewal, a sufficient  
20 bond shall be remitted by the proponent to the DENR to be released to the depository  
21 bank in the event of damage by a closure of the establishment after satisfactory  
22 rehabilitation according to the zones and objectives of the management plan as  
23 attested to by the PAMB.

24 The occupation of the LGUs and communities within the MSPL shall be  
25 respected. Within ninety (90) days after the creation of the PAMB, the Board shall  
26 assess the physical occupation of said LGUs and communities within MSPL and  
27 recommend to authorities' measures to ensure the protection of their well-being.

28 Municipalities with existing townships and town centers within the MSPL shall  
29 continue to occupy such townships and town centers: Provided, that in the

1 development of their CLUPs and barangay development plans, due consideration shall  
2 be given to the intended use for conservation and biodiversity as well as the objectives  
3 for MSPL

4         *Sec. 15. Tenured Migrants and Other MSPL Occupants.* - Tenured migrants shall  
5 be eligible to become stewards of portions of lands within multiple-use zones. The  
6 PAMB shall identify, verify and review all tenurial instruments, land claims, issuances  
7 of permits for resource use within the MSPL and recommend the issuance of the  
8 appropriate tenure instrument consistent with the zoning provided in the management  
9 plan and the provisions of this Act.

10         Should areas occupied by tenured migrants be designated as zones in which  
11 no occupation or other activities are allowed pursuant to the attainment of sustainable  
12 development, the provision for the transfer of the tenured migrants to multiple-use  
13 zones or buffer zones shall be accomplished through just and humane means:  
14 *Provided,* that MSPL occupants who are not qualified as tenured migrants shall be  
15 resettled outside the MSPL.

16         The rights of tenured migrants may be transferred only to the spouse or one  
17 of their direct descendants listed at the time of the survey. In the event of termination  
18 of a tenurial instrument for cause or by voluntary surrender of rights, the PASu shall  
19 take immediate steps to rehabilitate the area.

20         Following the protected area occupants survey required under Section 5(C)(1)  
21 of NIPAS Act as amended, the DENR Regional Executive Director shall submit to the  
22 Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) within two (2) years from the passage of this  
23 Act, the final list of tenured migrants, which shall be the basis for tenured migrants'  
24 recognition and issuance of tenurial instruments. Within the two (2)-year period, the  
25 DENR Regional Executive Director shall submit accomplishment report every six (6)  
26 months.

27         The DENR through the BMB shall issue guidelines for the determination of the  
28 reckoning period for the recognition of the tenured migrants.

1           Sec. 16. *Existing Facilities Within the MSPL.* - Within sixty (60) days from the  
2 effectivity of this Act, an inventory of all existing facilities such as roads, buildings and  
3 structures, water systems, transmission lines, communication facilities, heavy  
4 equipment, and irrigation facilities, among others, within MSPL shall be conducted.

5           The DENR Regional Executive Director shall submit the inventory of the facilities  
6 with corresponding descriptions and an assessment report containing the  
7 appropriate recommendations to the DENR Secretary through the BMB.

8           The PAMB, with the assistance of the DENR, may impose conditions for the  
9 continuous operation of a facility found to be detrimental to the MSPL until its eventual  
10 relocation. If the conditions are violated, the owner of the facility shall be made liable  
11 pursuant to Section 21 (d) of the NIPAS Act, as amended.

12           Existing facilities allowed to remain within the MSPL shall be charged a  
13 reasonable fee by the PAMB based on existing guidelines. Structures found within the  
14 forty (40)-meter easement shall be demolished unless proven necessary to protect the  
15 river and mitigate habitat destruction. The PAMB shall levy a reasonable fee for the  
16 use of such easement for their continued operations.

17           Sec. 17. *Special Uses Within Protected Area.* - Consistent with Section 2 hereof,  
18 special uses may be allowed within MSPL except in strict protection zones. The PAMB  
19 may recommend the issuance of tenurial instrument subject to compliance to ECC and  
20 payment of corresponding user fee equivalent to five percent (5%) of the zonal value  
21 of commercial land within the nearest barangay or municipality where the project is  
22 located multiplied by the area of development plus one percent (1%) value of  
23 improvement as premium: Provided, that the activity shall not be detrimental to  
24 ecosystem functions and biodiversity, and cultural practices and traditions.

25           A sufficient bond shall be remitted by the proponent to the DENR to be released  
26 to the depository bank in the event of damage by or closure of the establishment after  
27 the satisfactory rehabilitation according to the zones and objectives of the  
28 management plan as attested by the PAMB.

1           Sec. 18. *Local Government Units (LGUS)*. - The LGUs within MSPL shall  
2 participate in its management through representation in the PAMB as provided for in  
3 this law. Said LGUs may appropriate portions of their share from the annual internal  
4 revenue allotment and other income for use of the MSPL: Provided, that all funds  
5 directly coming from the LGUs shall be exempted from the twenty-five percent (25%)  
6 remittance requirement for the IPAF under Section 16 of the NIPAS Act, as amended.

7           The LGUs shall continue to impose and collect other fees not enumerated under  
8 Section 16 of the NIPAS Act, as amended which they have traditionally collected, such  
9 as business permits and rentals of LGU facilities: Provided, that the LGUs shall not  
10 impose property tax on properties owned by the government nor issue any tax  
11 declarations for areas covered by the protected area. Furthermore, LGUs may charge  
12 add-ons to fees imposed by the PAMB: *Provided*, LGUs may charge add-ons to fees  
13 imposed by the PAMB. Provided that such add-ons shall be based on the contribution  
14 of the LGUs in the maintenance and protection of MSPL.

15           LGUs with territory inside MSPL shall align their CLUPs, local development plans,  
16 disaster risk reduction management plans and other required plans according to the  
17 objectives specified herein and in the protected area management plans. Within six  
18 (6) months from the approval of the protected area management plan, the PAMB and  
19 the PASu shall collaborate with the LGU concerned in the formulation of the CLUP and  
20 other local plans and in the enforcement thereof. The concerned LGU official shall be  
21 held administratively and criminally liable for failure to enforce and/or implement the  
22 provisions of this Act.

23           Sec. 19. *Reporting Responsibility*. - The PASu, through the PAMB, shall submit  
24 an annual accomplishment report of MSPL to the Secretary of DENR through the BMB.  
25 A report on the conditions and benefits of the biological resources and ecosystem  
26 services of MSPL shall also be submitted by the PASu, through channels, to the  
27 Secretary of the DENR every five (5) years.

1           Consequently, the BMB shall include MSPL in its National State of Protected  
2 Areas (NSPAs) report every five (5) years and shall submit the same to the President,  
3 the Senate and the House of Representatives.

4           *Sec. 20. Appropriations.* - The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include  
5 in the DENR's program the implementation of Mt. Sawtooth Protected Landscape  
6 (MSPL) Act, the funding at which shall be included in the annual General  
7 Appropriations Act of the DENR.

8           *Sec. 21. Construction and Interpretation.* - The provisions of this Act shall be  
9 construed liberally in favor of the protection and rehabilitation of MSPL and the  
10 conservation and restoration of biological diversity taking into account the needs and  
11 interests of qualified tenured migrants, vested rights, IPs and local communities, and  
12 the benefits from ecosystem services and functions of MSPL, for present and future  
13 generations: Provided, that nothing in this Act shall be construed as a diminution of  
14 local autonomy or in derogation of ancestral domain rights under the Indigenous  
15 Peoples' Rights Act of 1997.

16           *Sec. 22. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* - To monitor and oversee  
17 the implementation of this Act, a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee is hereby  
18 created. It shall be composed of the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on  
19 Environment and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Natural Resources  
20 as Chairperson and Co-chairperson, respectively. and five (5) members each from the  
21 Senate and the House of Representatives as members: Provided, that two (2) of the  
22 five (5) members are nominated by the respective minority leaders of the Senate and  
23 the House of Representatives.

24           *Sec. 23. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Within six (6) months  
25 from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall prepare the IRR of this Act.

26           *Sec. 24. Transitory Provision.* - in order to enhance biological diversity and to  
27 develop sustainable livelihood opportunities for tenure migrants, the DENR shall  
28 henceforth cease to issue concessions, licenses, permits, clearances, compliance

1 documents or other instruments that allow utilization of resources within the MSPL  
2 until the management plan have been put into effect.

3 All existing land use and resource use permits issued for purposes which are  
4 authorized within the MSPL shall be reviewed and shall not be renewed upon their  
5 expiration unless consistent with the management plan and approved by the PAMB.

6 *Sec. 25. Separability Clause.* - if any provision of this Act is declared  
7 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall  
8 continue to be in full force and effect.

9 *Sec. 26. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
10 regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are  
11 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

12 *Sec. 27. Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
13 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*