

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Constitution Hills  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 177

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by : Rep. Josephine Y. Ramirez Sato

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is described as one of the biodiversity hotspot in the world and belonging to one of the seventeen (17) megadiverse countries. It is host to 70-80% of the world's life forms and is believed to harbor more diversity of life than any other country on earth on a per hectare basis. Unfortunately, the country is losing its biodiversity at an unprecedented scale. The unmitigated and destructive human activities have put the country in a biodiversity "crisis" that could take decades to reverse.

The Article XII, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution states that, "the Congress shall, as soon as possible, determine, by law, the specific limits of forest lands and national parks, marking clearly their boundaries on the ground".

To this end, Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act of 1992", or the NIPAS Act, was passed establishing a system of protected areas within the classification of national park as provided for in the Constitution. The system consists of all areas or islands in the Philippines proclaimed, designated or set aside, pursuant to a law, presidential decree, presidential proclamation, or executive order as national park, game refuge, bird and wildlife sanctuary, wilderness area, strict nature reserve, watershed, mangrove reserve, fish sanctuary, natural and historical landmark, protected and managed landscape/seascape as well as identified virgin forests before the effectivity of the NIPAS Act.

The NIPAS Act also provides for the integration of additional areas into the System through a lengthy and careful inclusion procedure. This includes the conduct of suitability assessments, publication and public hearings, which then leads to the issuance of a Presidential proclamation and culminates in the final declaration and classification of the land and by Congress as a national park.

Since 1992, 113 have been declared through Presidential proclamations as protected areas under the NIPAS. However, only thirteen (13) protected areas have finally proceeded to be legislated as such in more than twenty (20) years since the NIPAS Act was enacted. It is imperative that the proclaimed protected areas after the effectivity of the Act are finally declared as such through Congressional fiat as required by the NIPAS Act pursuant to the directive of the Constitution.

Furthermore, there are many proclaimed Protected Areas in the country categorized as initial components that are still unproclaimed under NIPAS. These are also identified as key biodiversity areas in the country that is home to endemic and critically endangered species of flora and fauna.

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



HON. JOSEPHINE Y. RAMIREZ SATO  
Lone District of Occidental Mindoro

Republic of the Philippines  
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**AN ACT ENSURING THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF  
PROTECTED AREAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
7586 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED  
AREAS SYSTEM ACT OF 1992**

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known and referred to as the “Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act”.

SEC. 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Cognizant of the profound impact of man’s activities on all components of the natural environment particularly the effect of increasing population, resource exploitation and industrial advancement and recognizing the critical importance of protecting and maintaining the natural biological and physical diversities of the environment notably on areas with biologically unique features to sustain human life and development, as well as plant and animal life, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to secure for 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.

It is hereby recognized that these areas, although distinct in features, possess common ecological values that may be incorporated into a holistic plan representative of our natural heritage; that effective administration of these areas is possible only through cooperation among

national government, local government and concerned private organizations; that the use and enjoyment of these protected areas must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development.

To this end, there is hereby established a National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), which shall encompass outstanding remarkable areas and biologically important public lands that are habitats of rare and endangered species of plants and animals, biogeographic zones and related ecosystems, whether terrestrial, wetland or marine, all of which shall be designated as *PROTECTED AREAS*.

The state shall ensure the full implementation of this Act, the mobilization of resources for the institutional mechanisms herein established, and the full scientific and technical support needed for the conservation of biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystems, culture and spiritual practices.

**SEC. 3.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended as to delete the provisions, and in lieu thereof, insert the following:

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

- (a) *Bioprospecting* - refers to the research, collection, and utilization of biological and genetic resources for purposes of applying the knowledge derived therefrom solely to commercial purposes;
- (b) *Buffer Zones* - refer to identified areas outside the boundaries of and immediately adjacent to designated protected areas pursuant to Section 8 that need special development control in order to avoid or minimize harm to the protected area;
- (c) *By-products or Derivatives* - refers to parts taken or substances extracted from wildlife, in raw or in processed form. These include stuffed animals and herbarium specimens;
- (d) *Collection or Collecting* - refers to the act of gathering or harvesting wildlife, its by-products, its by-products or derivatives;
- (e) *Conveyance* - refers to every description of vessel, including motorized or non-motorized vehicles, non-displacement crafts and seaplanes, used or capable of being used as a means of

transportation on land or water. It shall include everything found therein, except personal effects;

- (f) *Delineation* – refers to the actual ground survey of the boundaries of protected areas and their buffer zones and management and management zones using global positioning system (GPS) or other applicable surveying instruments and technologies, with the intention to come up with a map of the area;
- (g) *Demarcation* – refers to the establishment of the boundaries of protected areas and their buffer zones and management zones using visible markers, monuments, buoys in case of marine areas, and known natural features and landmarks, among others, as a result of the actual ground delineation;
- (h) *Endemic species* –refer to the species or subspecies of flora and fauna which are naturally occurring and found only within specific areas in the country;
- (i) *Exotic species* – refer to the species or subspecies of flora and fauna which do not naturally occur within the protected area at present or in historical time;
- (j) *Exploration* – refers to the act of searching or prospecting for mineral resources, as defined by law, by geological, geochemical or geophysical surveys, remote sensing, test pitting, trenching, drilling, shaft sinking, tunneling or any other means for the purpose of determining the existence, extent, quantity, and quality thereof, and the feasibility of mining them for profit;
- (k) *Gear* – refers to any instrument or device and its accessories utilized in taking, catching, gathering, killing, hunting, destroying, disturbing, removing, or possessing resources within protected area;
- (l) *Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)* – refers to any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology;
- (m) *Hunting* – refers to the killing or catching of wild fauna for food, and recreational purposes with the use of weapons such as guns, bow and arrow, spears, traps and snares, and the like;
- (n) *Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC)* – refers to a group of people sharing common bonds of language, customs,

traditions and other distinctive cultural traits, and who have since time immemorial occupied, possessed and utilized a territory;

- (o) *Invasive Alien Species* - refer to species introduced deliberately or unintentionally outside their natural habitats where they have the ability to establish themselves, invade, outcompete native species and take over the new environment;
- (p) *Multiple-Use Zone* - refers to the area where settlement, traditional, and sustainable land use, including agriculture, agro-forestry, extraction activities and other income generating or livelihood activities may be allowed to the extent prescribed in the management plan;
- (q) *National Park* - refers to the lands of the public domain classified as such in the 1987 Constitution which include all areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586 primarily designated for the conservation of native plants and animals, their associated habitats and cultural diversity;
- (r) *Natural biotic area* - refers to an area set aside to allow the way of life of societies living in harmony with the environment to adapt to modern technology at their pace;
- (s) *Natural monument* - refers to a relatively small area focused on the protection of small features to protect or preserve nationally significant natural features on account of their special interest or unique characteristics;
- (t) *Natural Park* - refers to a relatively large area not materially altered by human activity, where extractive resource uses are not allowed and is maintained to protect outstanding natural and scenic areas of national or international significance for scientific, educational and recreational use;
- (u) *National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS)* - refers to the classification and administration of all designated protected areas to maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems, to preserve genetic diversity, to ensure sustainable use of resources found therein, and to maintain their natural conditions to the greatest extent possible;
- (v) *Protected Area Superintendent (PASu)* - refers to the Chief Operating Officer of the Protected Area with a permanent



plantilla position in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

- (w) *Poaching* – refers to the gathering, collecting, or possessing products or natural resources from the protected area by any individual person, corporation or entity whether local or foreign; or in the case of marine protected areas, operating any foreign fishing vessels by any person, corporation or entity without a permit;
- (x) *Protected Area* – refers to identified portions of land and water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation;
- (y) *Protected Area occupants* – refer to persons who are residing, utilizing and cultivating areas within the protected area. These include private owners, indigenous peoples (IPs), tenured migrants or informal settlers;
- (z) *Protected Landscapes/ Seascapes* – refer to areas of national significance which are characterized by the harmonious interaction of man and land while providing opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation, tourism, and other economic activities;
- (aa) *Protected species* – refer to plants or animals declared protected under Philippine laws, rules and regulations. These shall include all species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna and all its annexes, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, those specified under the red-list categories of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, or any plant or animal which the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) or any government agency may deem necessary for conservation and preservation in the protected area;
- (bb) *Quarrying* – refers to the process of extracting, removing and disposing sand, gravel, guano, limestone or any material resources found within protected area;
- (cc) *Resource reserve* – refers to an extensive and relatively isolated and uninhabited area normally with difficult access designated to protect natural resources of the area for future use and prevent or contain development activities that could

affect the resource pending the establishment of objectives which are based upon appropriate knowledge and planning;

- (dd) *Secretary* - refers to the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- (ee) *Strict Nature Reserve* - refers to an area possessing some outstanding ecosystem, features and species of flora and fauna of national scientific importance maintained to protect nature and maintain processes in an undisturbed state in order to have ecologically representative examples of the natural environment available for scientific study, environmental monitoring, education, and for the maintenance of genetic resources in the dynamic and evolutionary state;
- (ff) *Tenured Migrants* - refer to members of tenured migrant communities as defined in this Act;
- (gg) *Tenured Migrant Communities* - refer to communities within protected areas which have actually and continuously occupied such areas for five (5) years before the designation of the same as protected areas in accordance with NIPAS Act and are solely dependent therein for subsistence;
- (hh) *Threatened species* - refer to a general term to denote species or subspecies considered as critically endangered, vulnerable or other accepted categories of wildlife whose population is at risk of extinction;
- (ii) *Wildlife* - refers to the wild forms and varieties of flora and fauna, in all developmental stages, including those which are in captivity or are being bred, fed or propagated, and
- (jj) *Wildlife sanctuary* - refers to an area which assures the natural conditions necessary to protect nationally significant species, groups of species, biotic communities or physical features of the environment where these may require specific human manipulations for their perpetuation.

SEC. 5. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. *Establishment and Extent of the System* - The establishment and operationalization of the System shall involve the following:



- (a) All areas or islands in the Philippines proclaimed, designated or set aside, pursuant to a law, presidential decree, presidential proclamation or executive order as national park, game refuge, bird and wildlife sanctuary, wilderness area, strict nature reserve, watershed, mangrove reserve, fish sanctuary, natural and historical landmark, protected and managed landscape/seascape as well as identified virgin forests before the effectivity of this Act are hereby designated as initial components of the System. The initial components of the System shall be governed by existing laws, rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this Act;
- (b) Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall submit to the Senate and the House of Representatives a map and legal descriptions or natural boundaries of each protected area initially comprising the System. Such maps and legal description shall, by virtue of this Act, constitute the official documentary representation of the entire System, subject to such changes as Congress deems necessary;
- (c) All DENR records pertaining to said protected areas, including maps and legal descriptions or natural boundaries, copies of rules and regulations governing them, copies of public notices of, and reports submitted to Congress regarding pending additions, eliminations, or modifications shall be made available to the public. These legal documents pertaining to protected areas shall also be available to the public in the respective DENR Regional Offices, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) where NIPAS areas are located;
- (d) Within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall study and review each area tentatively composing the System as to its suitability or non-suitability for preservation as protected area and inclusion in the System according to the categories established in Section 3 hereof and report its findings to the President as soon as each study is completed. The study must include in each area:
  - (1) A Protected Area occupants survey;
  - (2) An ethnographic study;

- (3) A protected area resource profile;
- (4) Land use plans done in coordination with the respective Regional Development Councils; and
- (5) Such other background studies as will be sufficient bases for selection.

The DENR shall:

- (i) Notify the public of proposed action through publication in a newspaper of general circulation, and such other means as the System deems necessary in the area or areas in the vicinity of the affected land thirty (30) days prior to the public hearing;
  - (ii) Conduct public hearings at the locations nearest to the area affected;
  - (iii) At least thirty (30) days prior to the date of hearing, advise all local government units (LGUs) in the affected areas, national agencies concerned, people's organizations and non-government organizations and invite such officials to submit their views on the proposed action at the hearing not later than thirty (30) days following the date of hearing; and
  - (iv) Give due consideration to the recommendations at the public hearing; and provide sufficient explanation for such recommendations contrary to the general sentiments expressed in the public hearing.
- (e) Upon receipt of the recommendations of the DENR, the President shall issue a presidential proclamation designating the recommended areas as protected areas and providing for measures for their protection until Congress shall have enacted a law finally declaring the recommended areas as part of the integrated protected area systems; and
- (f) Thereafter, the President shall send to the Senate and the House of Representatives the recommendations with respect to the designations as protected areas or reclassification of each area on which review has been completed, together with maps and legal description of boundaries. The President, in the recommendation, may propose the alteration of existing boundaries of any or all proclaimed protected areas, addition of any contiguous area of public land of predominant physical and biological value. Nothing contained herein shall limit the President to

propose, as part of the recommendation to Congress, additional areas which have not been designated, proclaimed or set aside by law, presidential decree, proclamation or executive orders as protected area/s.

- (g) Pursuant to and in accordance with the NIPAS Act, the following parcels of land are hereby declared and established as Protected Areas with the land classification of national park:

Name of Protected Area Proclamation	Proclamation Number	
	Number	Date
1. Abasig-MatogdonMananap Natural Biotic Area	318	May 31, 2000
2. Agoo-Damortis Protected Landscape and Seascape	277	April 23, 2000
3. Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary	913	Oct. 31, 1996
4. Alburquerque-Loay-Loboc Protected Landscape/Seascape	293	April 23, 2000
5. Aliguay Island Protected Landscape and Seascape	106	May 6, 1999
6. Aliwagwag Protected Landscape	139	April 5, 2011
7. AmroRiver Protected Landscape	274	April 23, 2000
8. Apo Island Protected Landscape/Seascape	438	Aug. 9, 1994
9. Apo Reef Natural Park 868	Sept. 6, 1996	
10. Baliangao Protected Landscape and Seascape	418	Nov. 22, 2000
11. Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park	414	Nov. 21, 2000
12. Basilan Natural Biotic Area	321	May 31, 2000
13. Bataan Natural Park	192	Nov. 27, 1987
14. Bessang Pass Natural Monument/Landmark	284	Apr. 23, 2000
15. Bicol Natural Park	43	Dec. 29, 2000
16. Bigbiga Protected Landscape	290	April 23, 2000
17. BiriLarosa Protected Landscape/Seascape	291	April 23, 2000
18. Bongsalay Natural Park	319	May 31, 2000
19. Buenavista Protected Landscape	294	April 23, 2000
20. Bulusan Volcano Natural Park	421	Nov. 27, 2000
21. Buug Natural Biotic AREA	63	Dec. 22, 1998
22. Calbayog-Pan-As Hayiban Protected Landscape	1158	Feb. 3, 1998
23. Camotes Island Mangrove Swamp Forest Reserve	2152	Dec. 29, 1981
24. Casecnan Protected Landscape	289	April 23, 2000
25. Catanduanes Watershed Forest Reserve	123	June 23, 1987
26. Chico Island Wildlife Sanctuary	272	April 23, 2000
27. Chocolate Hills Natural Monument	1037	July 1, 1997
28. Cuatro Islas Protected Landscape/Seascape	270	April 23, 2000
29. Dinadiawan River Protected Landscape	278	April 23, 2000
30. Dumanquilas Bay Protected Landscape		

and Seascape		158	Aug. 10, 1999
31. El Nido Managed Resource Protected Area		32	Oct. 8, 1998
32. Great and Little Sta. Cruz Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape		271	April 23, 2000
33. Guiuan Protected Landscape/Seascape	469		Sept. 26, 1994
34. Hinulugan Taktak Protected Landscape	412		Nov. 17, 2000
35. Initao-Libertad Protected Landscape and Seascape		260	Sept. 16, 2002
36. Jose Rizal Memorial Protected Landscape	279		Apr. 23, 2000
37. Kalbario-Patapat Natural Park	1275		Apr. 20, 2007
38. Lagonoy Natural Biotic Area	297		Apr. 24, 2000
39. Lake Danao Natural Park	1155		Feb. 3, 1998
40. Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area	1412 and 1412-A		Apr. 22, 2007 Jan. 31, 2008
41. Libunao Protected Landscape	280		Apr. 23, 2000
42. Lidlidda Protected Landscape	266		Apr. 23, 2000
43. Mabini Protected Landscape and Seascape	316		May 31, 2000
44. Mahagano Volcano Natural Park	1157		Feb. 3, 1998
45. Mainit Hot Spring Protected Landscape	320		Dec. 31, 2000
46. Malabugot Protected Landscape and Seascape		288	Apr. 23, 2000
47. Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape	342		July 12, 2000
48. Manleluag Spring Protected Landscape	576		Mar. 10, 1994
49. Marinduque Wildlife Sanctuary	696		Aug. 17, 2004
50. Masinloc and Oyon Bays Marine Reserve	231		Aug. 18, 1993
51. Mati Protected Landscape	912		Sept. 6, 2005
52. Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape	295		Apr. 23, 2000
53. Mayon Volcano Natural Park	413		Nov. 21, 2000
54. Mt. Balatukan Range Natural Park	1249		May 6, 2007
55. Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary	292		April 23, 2000
56. Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park	746		Feb. 20, 1996
57. Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park	557		May 8, 1969
58. Mt. Inayawan Range Natural Park	1344		July 30, 2007
59. Mt. Isarog Natural Park	214		June 20, 2002
60. Mt. Kalatungan Range Natural Park	305		May 5, 2000
61. Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape	1815		June 23, 2009
62. Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape	552		Mar. 20, 1995
63. Mts. PalayPalay and Mataasna Gulod Protected Landscape	1315		June 27, 2007
64. Mt. Timpoong and Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument	570		Mar. 9, 2004
65. Mount Timolan Protected Landscape	354		Aug. 14, 2000
66. Murcielagos Island Protected Landscape and Seascape	281		Apr. 23, 2000
67. Naro Island Wildlife Sanctuary	317		May 31, 2000
68. Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center	723		Oct. 25, 2004
69. Northern Negros Natural Park	895		Aug. 15, 2005

70. Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park	186	Apr. 18, 2002
71. Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary	903	May 14, 1992
72. Palaui Island Marine Reserve	447	Aug. 28, 1994
73. Pamitinan Protected Landscape	901	Oct. 10, 1996
74. Panglao Island Protected Seascape	426	July 22, 2003
75. Pasonanca Natural Park	132	July 5, 1999
76. Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape	484	Oct. 6, 2003
77. Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park	212	Nov. 12, 1999
78. Pujada Bay Protected Landscape/Seascape	431	July 31, 1994
79. Quezon Protected Landscape	394	June 2, 2007
80. Quirino Protected Landscape	779	Feb. 9, 2004
81. Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape	287	April 23, 2000
82. Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary	1000	Feb. 15, 2006
83. Roosevelt Protected Landscape	273	April 23, 2000
84. Salinas Natural Monument	275	April 23, 2000
85. Samar Island Natural Park	442	Aug. 13, 2003
86. Santa Lucia Protected Landscape	296	April 23, 2000
87. Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape	756	March 5, 1996
88. Selinog Island Protected Landscape and Seascape	276	April 23, 2000
89. Siargao Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape	902	Oct. 10, 1996
90. Sibalom Natural Park	282	April 23, 2000
91. Simbahan-Talagas Protected Landscape	267	April 23, 2000
92. Sinarapan Sanctuary		
93. Siocon Resource Reserve	84	Feb. 24, 1999
94. Taal Volcano Protected Landscape	923	Nov. 19, 1996
95. Talibon Group of Islands Protected Landscape/Seascape	13	July 5, 1999
96. Talaytay Protected Landscape	283	April 23, 2000
97. Tañon Strait Protected Seascape	1234	May 27, 1998
98. Tinuy-an Falls Protected Landscape		
99. Tumauini Watershed Forest Reserve	355	April 4, 1994
100. Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary	171	Aug. 26, 1999
101. Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape	296	Nov. 24, 2011

The category, location, and boundaries of each Protected Area as described in the attached Annex shall be considered as integral part of this Act.

The DENR, with the assistance of other government agencies, if necessary, shall delineate and demarcate on the ground the boundaries of each Protected Area which shall not be modified except by an Act of Congress.

**SEC. 6.** Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. *Buffer Zones.* – When necessary, the PAMB may establish areas surrounding the Protected Areas as buffer zones for the purpose of providing extra layer of protection where restrictions may be applied and communities may assist in repelling threats to the Protected Area.



Such buffer zones may include public or private lands.

SEC. 7. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

*"SEC. 9. Management Plans. -*There shall be a management plan prepared for the Protected Area and its buffer zone which shall serve as guide in the management and operation of the Protected Area.

Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the management plan shall have been put into effect following the General Management Planning Strategy provided for under the NIPAS Act and according to the procedure herein set forth.

The management plan shall be prepared by the Protected Area Superintended (PASu) in coordination with the appropriate offices of the national government such as the DENR, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (if applicable), Department of Agriculture (DA), Local Government Units, private sectors, civil society organizations, local and indigenous cultural communities/ indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs). It shall be reviewed and approved by the PAMB and endorsed, through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), to the Secretary of the DENR. The management plan shall take effect after thirty (30) days from the date of receipt thereof by the Secretary of the DENR: *Provided, however,* that the Secretary of the DENR, may revise and modify the management plan before the expiration of the thirty (30)- day period to ensure conformity with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

The management plan shall be modified and updated regularly and in accordance with studies or similar resources assessments and surveys as well as relevant developments on biodiversity conservation such as the in-depth review of NIPAS and related statutes on the establishment and management of Protected Areas in the Philippines. The management plan shall be distributed to concerned government agencies, local government units, civil society organizations, private sector, and indigenous and local communities, with the goal of proper coordination and uniform management of Protected Areas. All concerned Local Government Units shall integrate and mainstream the management plan into their policies, programs and local development planning process. The Biodiversity Management Bureau shall monitor the implementation of the management plan to ensure compliance and consistency with biodiversity conservation objectives.

A year before the termination of the existing management plan, the PASu shall cause the publication of notices for comments and suggestions on the proposed subsequent management plan in two (2)



newspapers of general or local circulation. Notices shall also be posted in the Provincial Hall, City or Municipal Halls covering the Protected Area as well as in the Barangay Halls within or immediately adjacent to the Protected Area. The proposed plan shall be made available to the public during the period for comment and upon approval of the PAMB. A final plan shall likewise be made available for public consumption at the offices of the PASu and the DENR Regional Director, *provided*, that the plan shall be plainly written in a language understandable in the area.

SEC. 8. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

*"SEC. 11. Protected Area Management Board. - A Protected Area Management Board for each of the declared and established protected area shall be created, and shall be composed of the following: the Regional Director under whose jurisdiction the protected area is located, as Chairperson; one (1) representative from the autonomous regional government, if applicable; Governor/s of the Province/s covering the Protected Area; the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinators (PPDC) of the Province/s covering the Protected Area; Mayor/s of the City/ies and Municipality/ies covering the Protected Area or their duly designated representative/s; the Chairpersons of the Barangays covering the Protected Area or their duly designated representative/s; one (1) representative from each IPS/ICCS, if applicable; and at least one but not more than three (3) representatives from non-government (NGOs)/local community organizations duly accredited by the DENR or the Local Government Unit operating in the Protected Area, which has been existing for five (5) years with track records related to the protection and management of the Protected Area; one (1) representative from an academic institutions with track records related to the protection and management of the Protected Area; and if necessary, one (1) representative from other departments or national government agencies involved in the protection and management of the protected area or have long-term projects or permanent facility located therein;*

The Environment and Natural Resources Officer of the Province or a Provincial Officer holding an equivalent position shall be an *Ex Officio* member of the PAMB.

The Board shall, by a majority vote, decide the allocations for budget, approve proposals for funding, decide ON matters relating to planning, peripheral protection and general administration of the area in accordance with the general management strategy. The members of the Board shall serve for a term of five (5) years without compensation, except for the actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The Members of the Board shall be appointed by the Secretary of the DENR. In the case of member who are government officials, their appointment shall be co-terminus with their terms of office.

The Secretary shall designate the Chairperson should there be two (2) or more Regional Directors in the Board.

As a transitory provision, the initial members of the PAMB shall be nominated from the current members of the existing PAMB of the Protected Area, *provided*, that the women's sector shall be represented.

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

- (A) More than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences during regularly scheduled meetings of the Management Board;
- (B) Commission of acts prejudicial to the management of Protected Areas as embodied in Section 20 of the NIPAS Act or other existing rules and regulations governing Protected Areas;
- (C) Disassociation from the office or organization being represented;
- (D) Dissolution of the officer or organization being represented; and
- (E) Conviction by final judgement of any criminal act.

The representatives from the Local Government Units and national agencies in the PAMB shall inform their respective constituents, offices, or sectors, of PAMB-approved or other relevant policies, rules, regulations, programs and projects and to ensure that the provisions of this Act, the NIPAS Act and its implementing rules and regulations are observed, complied with, and used as reference and framework in their respective plans, policies, programs and projects. Failure to comply with the foregoing shall subject such representative to disciplinary action as the PAMB may provide.

**SEC. 9.** Insert two (2) new sections after Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7586 to read as follows:

*"Sec. 11-A. Powers and Functions of the PAMB.* – The PAMB shall have the following powers and functions in addition to those provided under the NIPAS Act of 1992 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations:

- (A) Approve the management plan and annual work and financial plans, allocate resources and oversee the office of the PASu;
- (B) Adopt rules of procedures in the conduct of business, including the creation of Committees to which its powers may be delegated;
- (C) Manage the allocation of the Protected Area retention income account, and other funds for the Protected Area, ensure their proper administration and render proper accounting procedures;
- (D) Establish criteria for the issuance of permits for activities regulated by this Act or the management plan;
- (E) Issue rules and regulations for the resolution of conflicts through appropriate and effective means;
- (F) Recommend the deputization of appropriate agencies and individuals for the enforcement of the law rules and regulations governing the conduct or management of the Protected Area;
- (G) Approve fees and charges in accordance with existing guidelines and raise funds for the Protected Area; and
- (H) Recommend appropriate policy changes to the DENR and other government authorities;

The PAMB with more than twenty-five (25) members may create Executive Committees (ExeComs) which shall perform all the above functions. Each member of the ExeCom shall act as a representative of the PAMB as a whole and are accountable to the PAMB *en banc*. In such cases, the PAMB *en banc* shall retain the right to ratify the following decisions:

- 1) Approval of the management plan;
- 2) Approval of the annual work and financial plans; and
- 3) Approval of fees and charges for use of Protected Area resources;

The DENR, through the Regional Director, shall ensure that the PAMB acts within the scope of its powers and functions. In case of conflict between the resolutions and issued by the PAMB and the existing Administrative Orders of national application, the latter shall prevail."

"Sec. 11-B. *The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO).* - There is hereby created a Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) to be headed by a PASu who shall perform the day to day management, protection, and administration of the Protected Area. The PASu shall be supported by the DENR personnel designated therein. The DENR shall

appoint a PASu who shall be primarily accountable to the PAMB and the DENR for the management and operations of the Protected Area. As such, the PASu shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (A) Prepare the management plan as herein defined;
- (B) Formulate and submit the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Protected Area;
- (C) Provide a secretariat for the PAMB with and its committees and provide the PAMB will all the necessary information to make appropriate decisions for the implementation of this Act;
- (D) Establish, operate and maintain a database management system as decision support tool;
- (E) Monitor all activities within the Protected Area to ensure its conformity with the management plan;
- (F) Issue permits, including cutting permits when warranted, for activities that implement the management plan and other permitted activities in accordance with terms, conditions and criteria established by PAMB, *provided*, that all extraction activities, including collection for research purposes shall continue to be issued by relevant government authorities in accordance with the specific acts made for the purpose;
- (G) Enforce the laws, rules and regulations relevant to the Protected Area, commence and institute legal action independently or in collaboration with other government agencies or organizations and assist in the prosecution of offenses committed in violation of this Act;
- (H) Request for and receive any technical assistance, support or advice from any agency or instrumentality of the government as well as academic institutions, non-government organizations and the private sector as may be necessary for the effective management, protection and administration of the Protected Area;
- (I) Ensure the integration of the Protected Area management policies, regulations, programs and projects to all the concerned national and Local Government Units level; and
- (J) Perform such other functions as the PAMB may delegate. "

SEC. 10. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 13. *Recognition of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Conserve Areas and Territories.* Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) within the Protected Area shall be recognized and respected. The PAMB and PASu shall assist ICCs/IPs concerned in the identification, mapping,

documentation and registration of ICCAs, and the preparation of community conservation plans. The identified ICCAs and the community conservation plans shall be harmonized with the Protected Area management plan and zoning. The documentation and mapping of ICCAs shall be undertaken in the preparation, modification or revision of the management plan. The PAMB shall likewise consider ICCA issues and concerns in all management planning and decision-making processes.

The management plan and Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) shall be harmonized to ensure the protection of biodiversity, sustainable use of natural resources, and to maintain cultural integrity."

SEC. 11. Section 14 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 14. *Energy Resources.* - Consistent with the policies declared in Section 2 hereof, protected areas, except strict nature reserves and natural parks, may be subjected to exploration only for the purpose of gathering information on energy resources and only if such activity is carried out with the least damage to surrounding areas. Surveys shall be conducted only in accordance with a program approved by the DENR, and the result of such surveys shall be made available to the public and submitted to the President for recommendation to Congress.

Energy projects within the Protected Area shall only be allowed through an Act of Congress except for renewable energy projects which the PAMB may allow and with the concurrence of the DENR Secretary, *provided*, that these renewable energy projects located outside the strict protection zones shall adopt reduced impact technologies, undergo environmental impact assessment (EIA) as provided by law, and shall not be detrimental to ecosystem functions and biodiversity."

SEC. 12. Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 10629, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 16 *Protected Area (PA) Fund* - There is hereby established a trust fund to each Protected Area for purposes of financing the projects for purpose of financing the projects and sustaining the operation of the PA. All income generated from the operation and management of the PA shall accrue to the PA Fund. These incomes shall be derived from fees from permitted sale and export of flora and fauna and other resources from the Protected Area; proceeds from lease of multi-use areas; contribution from industries and facilities directly benefitting from the



Protected Area; and such other fees and income derived from the operation of the Protected Area.

The PA Fund may be augmented by grant grants, donations, endowment from various sources, domestic or foreign. The PAMB of the PA shall retain seventy-five percent (75%) of all revenues raised, to be deposited in any government bank within the locality, *provided*, that disbursements out of such deposits shall be used solely for the protection, maintenance, administration, and management of the PA and implementation of duly approved projects endorsed by the PAMB in accordance with existing accounting budgeting and auditing rules and regulations, *provided, further*, that the PA Fund shall not be used to cover personal services expenditures.

The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of the revenues shall be deposited as a special account in the National Treasury as share in the Integrated Protected Area System Fund for purposes of financing the project of the system.

The concerned LGUs shall continue to impose and collect all other fees not enumerated herein but which they have traditionally collected, such as business permits, property tax, and rental of LGU facilities: *provided*, that the LGUs shall not impose property tax and issue new tax declaration for areas covered by the protected area: *provided further*, LGUs may change additional fees to those imposed by the PAMB: *provided, finally*, that such additional fees shall be determined based on the contribution of the LGUs in the maintenance and protection of the Protected Area.

SEC. 13. A new Section 16-A of Republic Act 7586, as amended by R.A. 10629 shall read as follows:

Sec. 16-A. *Tax Exemption* – All grants, bequests, and endowments, donations, and contributions made to the Protected Area Fund to be used actually, directly, and exclusively by the Protected Area shall be exempt from Donor's tax and shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross income of the donor for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SEC. 14. Section 19 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:



"SEC. 19. *Special Prosecutor and Retained Counsel.* - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act the Department of Justice (DOJ) shall appoint a special prosecutor to prosecute violations of laws, rules and regulations in the protected area. Such special prosecutor shall coordinate with the PAMB and PASu in the performance of duties and assist in the training of wardens and rangers in arrest and criminal procedures. The PAMB may retain the services of counsel to prosecute and/or assist in the prosecution cases under the direct control and supervision of the regular or special prosecutor and to defend the members of the PAMB, the PASu and the staff, or any person assisting in the protection, conservation and sustainable development of protected area, against any legal action related to their powers, functions and responsibilities as provided in this Act or as delegated or tasked by the PAMB."

SEC. 15. Section 20 of Republic Act No. 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC 20. *Prohibited Acts.* - Except as may be allowed by the nature of their categories and pursuant to rules and regulations governing the same, the following acts are prohibited within protected areas.

- (a) Hunting, taking, killing, collecting, destroying, disturbing, possessing of any wild terrestrial or aquatic plants or animals, flora or fauna, sand, rocks, or by-products derived therefrom, including in private lands within the Protected Area without the necessary permit, authorization or exemption: *provided*, that the PASu as authorized by the PAMB shall issue a permit, authorization or exemption only for culling, scientific research, the exceptions under Section 27 (A) of Republic Act No. 9147 or harvests of non-protected species in multiple use zones by protected area occupants;
- (b) Dumping, throwing, using, or causing to be dumped or placing into the Protected Area any toxic chemical, poisonous substance or non-biodegradable material, waste or products whether in liquid, solid or gas state, including pesticides and other hazardous substances as defined under the Republic Act No. 6969, otherwise known as the "Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990" detrimental to the protected area, or to the plants and animals or inhabitants therein;
- (c) Operating any motorized conveyance within the Protected Area not otherwise authorized by law;

- (d) Mutilating, defacing, destroying, excavating, vandalizing or, in any manner, damaging any natural formation on land, religious, spiritual, historical sites, artifacts and other objects of natural beauty, scenic value or objects of interest to cultural communities;
- (e) Damaging and leaving roads and trails in a damaged condition;
- (f) Informally occupying or dwelling in any land within the Protected Area without clearance from the PAMB;
- (g) Constructing, erecting, or maintaining any kind of structure, fence or enclosures, conducting any business enterprise without a permit on land or on water for any purposes inconsistent with the management plan duly approved by the PAMB: *provided*, that large-scale private infrastructure and other projects such as medium to high density residential subdivisions, medium to large scale commercial and industrial establishments, golf courses, heavily mechanized commercial and non-traditional farming, and other activities that cause increased immigration and resource degradation are absolutely prohibited;
- (h) Leaving in exposed or unsanitary conditions refuse or debris, or depositing in ground or in bodies of water; and
- (i) Altering, removing, destroying or defacing boundary marks or signs.
- (j) Undertaking mineral exploration or extraction within the Protected Area;
- (k) Poaching within a Protected Area;
- (l) Cutting, gathering, removing or collecting timber within the Protected Area including private lands without the necessary permit, authorization or exemption such as for culling exotic species;
- (m) Possessing or transporting, within or outside the Protected Area any timber, forest products wild terrestrial or aquatic plants, animals, or by-products derived therefrom which ascertained to have been taken from the Protected Area other than exotic species under an appropriate permit for its culling;

- (n) Engaging in quarrying within the Protected Area for use outside the Protected Area and without permit;
- (o) Engaging in *kaingin*, in any manner, causing forest fires inside the Protected Area;
- (p) Establishing or introducing any exotic species, including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and invasive alien species within the Protected Area which are detrimental to endemic species and the ecosystem therein;
- (q) Conducting bioprospecting within the Protected Area without prior PAMB approval in accordance with existing guidelines, provided that in addition to the penalty herein, any commercial use of any substance taken from a Protected Area will not be allowed and all revenue earned from illegal commercialization thereof will be forfeited and deposited in the IPAF;
- (r) Prospecting, hunting or otherwise locating hidden treasures within the Protected Area;
- (s) Possessing or using blasting caps or explosives anywhere within the Protected Area;
- (t) Taking, removing, fishing, gathering, killing, destroying or possessing corals from Marine Protected Areas, except for scientific or research purposes authorized by the PAMB;
- (u) Using any fishing or harvesting gear that destroy coral reefs, seagrass beds or other marine life or terrestrial habitats as may be determined by this Act, the PAMB, other laws, the DA, or the DENR;
- (v) Using of muro-ami, pa-aling, all kinds of trawls (galadgad, norway), purse seine (pangulong), Danish seine (hulbot-hulbot, pahulbot-hulbot, likisan, liba-liba, ppalisot, patangko, bira-bira, buli-buli, hulahoop, zipper, lampornas, etc), rine net (kubkob, pangulong, kalansisi), drive-in net (kayakas), round haul seine (sapyaw, lawag), motorized push net (sudsod), bagnet (basing, saklit), or any of their variations, provided that mere possession of such gears within the Protected Areas shall be prima facie evidence of their use; or

- (w) Purchases or sells, mortgages or leases lands or other portions of the Protected Area which are covered by any tenurial instrument."

SEC. 16. Section 21 of RA 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 21. *Penalties.* - Violations under this Act shall be subject to the following penalties:

- (A) The penalties and qualifications prescribed in Articles 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code, depending on the value of the resources involved in connection with the prohibited act or a fine of at least triple the value of the said resources, or both, shall be imposed upon any person who violates letters (A) to (F) of Section 20 herein.
- (B) A fine of not less than two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) but not more than one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) or imprisonment from one (1) year but not more than six (6) years, or both, shall be imposed upon any person who violates letters (H) to (L) of Section 20 herein.
- (C) A fine of not less than one million pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not more than five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) or imprisonment from six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years or both shall be imposed upon any person who violates letters (M) to (T) of Section 20 herein.
- (D) Administrative fines not less than five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) but not exceeding fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) shall be imposed for the violation of any rules and regulations in the management plan or by the PAMB or agreements reached before the PAMB in the exercise of adjudicative functions; *provided, that, if the area requires rehabilitation or restoration as determined by the court, the offender shall be required to restore or compensate for the restoration to the damages that shall accrue to the Protected Area Fund: provided, further, that court shall order the eviction of the offender from the land and the forfeiture in favor of the government of all minerals, timber or any species, collected or removed including all equipment, devices and firearms used in connection therewith, and any construction or improvement made thereon by the offender. If the offender is an association or corporation, the President or Manager shall be directly responsible for the Act of his employees and laborers: provided, finally, that the DENR may impose administrative fines and*

penalties consistent with this Act. Valuation of the damage for this Act shall take into account biodiversity and conservation considerations as well as aesthetic and scenic value. Valuation assessed by the DENR, in coordination with other concerned government agencies shall be presumed correct unless otherwise proven by preponderance of evidence.

Any person who shall induce another or conspire to commit any of the illegal acts prohibited in this Act or suffer their workers to commit any of the same shall be liable in the same manner as the one actually performing the act.

All conveyances, vessels, equipment, paraphernalia, implements, gears, tools and similar devices shall be subject to immediate and administrative confiscation, independent of the judicial proceedings by the PASu Office upon apprehension, subject however to due process and substantial evidence requirements. When legal action is however filed in the regular courts, the said conveyances, vessels, equipments, paraphernalia, implements, gears, tools and similar devices, independent of the administrative proceedings, shall not be released until after judgement has been rendered. Proceeds of the sale of all objects administratively or judicially confiscated pursuant hereto shall accrue to the Protected Area Fund. Procedure for the sale thereof shall be promulgated by the PAMB. However, in no case shall any confiscated or rescued protected animal species be sold or in any manner disposed of but shall be immediately turned over to the PASu Office for release in its natural habitat, subject to existing regulations.

The penalties specified in this Section shall be in addition to the penalties contained in Republic Act No. 9072 (National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act), Republic Act No. 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act), Republic Act 10654 (Revised Philippine Fisheries Code) and other related laws.

Conviction for any offense under this Act of a Public Officer or Officer of the law shall carry the accessory penalty of perpetual disqualification from public office."

**SEC. 17.** Insert ten (10) new sections after Section 21 of Republic Act No. 7586 to read as follows:



Sec. 22. *Tenured migrants and other Protected Area occupants.* - Tenured migrant shall be eligible to become stewards of portions of lands within allowable zones. The PAMB shall identify, verify, and review all tenurial instruments, land claims, and issuances of permits for resources use within the Protected Area and recommended the issuance of the appropriate tenure instrument consistent with the zoning provided in the management plan.

Should areas occupied by tenured migrants be designated as zones in which no occupation or other activities are allowed pursuant to the attainment of sustainable development, provision for the transfer of said tenured migrant to multiple use zones or buffer zones shall be accomplished through just and humane means.

In the event of termination of a tenurial instrument for cause or by voluntary surrender of rights, the PASu shall take immediate steps to rehabilitate the area in order to return it to its natural state prior to the cultivation or other act by the tenured migrant.

Protected Area occupants who are not qualified as tenured migrants shall be resettled outside the Protected Area.

Within three (3) months from the passage of this Act, the PASu shall submit to the PAMB the list of tenured migrants, which shall become the official list upon approval of the Regional Director.

Sec. 23 - *Existing Rights.* - All vested property and private rights within the Protected Area and its buffer zones already existing and/or vested upon the effectivity of this Act shall be protected and respected in accordance with existing laws. Notwithstanding this Act, all existing permits, contracts or agreements entered into by government for the utilization of natural resources within Protected Areas including their renewal shall continue to be recognized and governed by the Philippines laws.

If the permits, contracts and agreements are not renewed, such areas shall be rehabilitated or restored by the permit holders within the period provided by the pertinent laws and shall revert to National Parks Classification.



Sec. 24. *Existing facilities within the Protected Area* - within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, existing facilities such as roads, buildings and structures, water systems, transmission lines, communication facilities, heavy equipment, and irrigation facilities existing within the boundaries of the Protected Area shall be inventoried and the inventory with project descriptions shall be submitted to the PAMB through the PASu.

The PAMB, with the assistance of the DENR, shall determine whether the existence of such facility and its future plans and operations will be detrimental to the Protected Area or whether conditions for its operations shall be imposed. If any such conditions are violated, the owner of the facility shall be liable to pay a fine of fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) for every violation and desist from continuing the violation immediately. Upon reaching a total fine of five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) or if the violation continues to be committed for (30) days, the PAMB through the PASu and deputized other government entities, shall cause the cessation of operation, and either the forfeiture in favor of the PAMB or demolition of the facility at the cost of the owner. If the owner of the facility detrimental to the Protected Area is the government, the agency in charge shall submit a plan for a substitute facility that would not be detrimental to the Protected Area and undertake the building thereof within one (1) year from the PAMB decision to cease operations.

Existing facilities allowed to remain within the Protected Area may be charged a reasonable fee by the PAMB. All income from such fee shall accrue to the Protected Area retention income account.

Sec. 25. *Local Government Units.* - The Local Government Units (LGUs) within the Protected Area shall participate in its management through representation in the PAMB as provided for in this Act. Said LGUs may appropriate portions of their share from the annual internal revenue allotment and other income for use of the Protected Area: *provided*, that all funds directly coming from the LGUs shall be exempted from the twenty-five percent (25%) remittance requirement for the Integrated Protected Areas Fund - Special Account in the General Fund (IPAF-SAGF).

Sec. 26. *Reporting Responsibility.* - The PASu, through the PAMB, shall submit an annual accomplishment report to the

Secretary of the DENR on the activities undertaken in the Protected Area.

A report on the conditions and benefits of the biological resources of the Protected Area shall also be submitted by the PASu, through the PAMB, to the Secretary of the DENR every five (5) years.

*Sec. 27. Appropriations* - The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include in the DENR's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

*Sec. 28. Construction and Interpretation* - The provisions of this Act shall be construed liberally in favor of the protection and rehabilitation of the Protected Area and the conservation and restoration of its biological diversity, taking into account the needs and interests of qualified tenured migrants, fore present and future Filipino generations.

*Sec. 29. Subsequent Site-specific Legislation.* - The PAMB may propose new legislations for congressional action to appropriately respond to the distinct and particular needs and conservation requirements in each of the Protected Areas listed herein, if necessary.

*Sec. 30. Authority to issue site-specific implementing rules and regulations.* - The PAMB shall issue the specific implementing rules and regulations for each Protected Area taking into consideration the particular circumstances and concerns of each site. The PAMB shall ensure that specific provisions of the applicable Presidential Proclamation not inconsistent with this Act are adopted in the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The PAMB shall transmit the issued Implementing Rules and Regulations to the Secretary of the DENR, through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB). Within thirty (30) days after the date of receipt thereof, the Secretary of the DENR shall review the issued Implementing Rules and Regulations for consistency with relevant existing laws, rules and regulations. If the Secretary of the DENR takes no action within thirty (30) days after receipt of such issued Implementing Rules and Regulations, the same shall be presumed consistent with law and therefore valid.

Sec. 31. *Transitory provision.* – In order to ensure the recovery and restoration of biological diversity and to develop sustainable livelihood opportunities for tenured migrants, the DENR shall henceforth cease to issue concessions, licenses, permits, clearances, compliance documents or other instruments that allow utilization of resources within the Protected Area until the management plan shall have been put into effect.

All existing land use and resource use permits within the Protected Area shall be reviewed and shall not be renewed upon their expiration unless consistent with the management plan and approved by the PAMB.

SEC. 18. Sections 22 and 23 of Republic Act No. 7586 are hereby renumbered as Sections 32 and 33 of the Revised NIPAS Act.

SEC. 19. Section 24 of RA 7586 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 34. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *OFFICIAL GAZETTE* or in a newspaper of general circulation.”

Approved,