

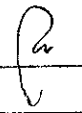
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 378

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DWINDLING STATE OF OUR COUNTRY'S FORESTS, RANKED AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST THREATENED, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF LAYING DOWN POLICY DIRECTIVES AIMED AT REHABILITATION, MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF OUR REMAINING FOREST COVER

Whereas, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

Whereas, forests comprise 31% of the earth's total land area and 1.6 billion people depend on forests while 300 million call forests their home;

Whereas, the Philippine government adopts the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) definition of forest as "an area of more than 0.5 hectares and tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10% which includes natural and plantation and production forests";¹

Whereas, based on the FAO definition of forest, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) estimates that 7.2 million hectares comprise the forest ecosystem, which is approximately 24 per cent of the country's total land area of almost 30 million hectares;

Whereas, the forest ecosystem plays a crucial role in soil and water conservation and major ecological services and directly supports approximately 30% percent of the population including some 12 to 15 million indigenous peoples who depend on forests for their survival and whose cultures revolve around their interactions with their natural environment;²

Whereas, in a recent report by Conservation International, a Washington-based NGO, the Philippines' tropical forests ranked fourth in the group of 10 most threatened forests in the world due to years of logging and invasive human activities;

Whereas, the other forests in the most-threatened list are found in the Indo-Burma region, New Zealand, Sundaland, Atlantic Forest in Brazil, Southwest China, California, Eastern Africa, Madagascar and Indian Ocean islands, and Eastern Afromontane;


¹ *Forest and Mountain Biodiversity. Overview, Philippine Clearing House Mechanism for Biodiversity*
http://www.chm.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=68&Itemid=90

² *Ibid.*

Whereas, the destruction of our forests contribute to massive floodings and landslides:
Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the dwindling state of our country's forests, ranked as one of the world's most threatened, with the end in view of laying down policy directives aimed at rehabilitation, management and protection of our remaining forest cover.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR
Senator