




13 JUL -1 P2:45

SENATE

S.B. No. 143

FILED BY: 

---

Introduced by SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

---

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Coastal environments encompass different ecosystems such as shore lands, mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs. They are among the most productive and biologically diverse landscapes known to man. In an archipelagic country like the Philippines, where over 80% of the major settlements are located within ten or twenty kilometers from the shorelines, coastal environments are critical and often dominant ecological presuppositions of economic, social and cultural life. Thus, the protection and proper management of coastal environments are important concerns of the State and are explicitly mandated by the Constitution.

The adoption of a Coastal Environment Program (CEP) is within the objectives, provisions, scoping and principles of the Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development (PSSD), the Philippine Medium-Term Development Plan (PMTDP) and of the actions and agreements adopted by the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) related to the pursuit of the objectives of the Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (UNCED) and of such other protocols and treaties to which the Philippines has committed to abide.

Thus, the early approval of this bill is requested.

  
CYNTHIA A. VILLAR



1           SEC. 4.     *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following  
2 terms shall mean:

3  
4           (1) *Coastal environments.* - Those areas where, at any given time,  
5           socioeconomic interactions among and between humans, land-based  
6           and sea-based natural resources occur, extending not more than one (1)  
7           linear kilometer from the highest tide point landward and to one hundred  
8           (100) fathom isobath or fifteen (15) linear kilometers (whichever is  
9           farther) seaward.

10  
11           (2) *Coastal resources.* - All objects and processes of nature which are of  
12           value to humans, grouped primarily as follows:

13  
14           (a) *Shorelands.* - Strips of land extending one (1) linear kilometer from  
15           the highest tide point of the nearest body of water, include the  
16           mineral, nutrients and life forms found under, on or above the land;

17  
18           (b) *Coastal forests.* - Mangroves and other beach vegetation whose  
19           structures and forms are consistent with the definition of forests  
20           under Presidential Decree No. 705 and the Forestry Master Plan of  
21           the Philippines;

22  
23           (c) *Fishery and wildlife resources.* - Vertebrates, invertebrates and  
24           floral formations in aquatic ecosystems, inhabiting or deriving  
25           sustenance from coastal environments;

26  
27           (d) *Minerals.* - Solids and gases (free or dissolved) and other liquids  
28           found on or under the seabed.

29  
30  
31           SEC. 5.     *Program Organization.* – The CEP shall be organized into the  
32 following components:

33  
34           (1) *Coastal habitats and biodiversity.* - This component shall deal  
35           mainly with the conservation and management of coastal areas, enhancing the  
36           biodiversity of floral and faunal populations. This component shall include the  
37           implementation of Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected  
38           Areas System Act of 1992, relative to protected areas in coastal environments. It  
39           shall also include the rehabilitation of mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs in  
40           designated areas;

41  
42           (2) *Endangered species* - This component shall focus on the  
43           conservation, protection and propagation of endangered species and on the  
44           protection and management of their habitats. Existing projects of the DENR on  
45           marine turtles, crocodiles, sea snakes, shore birds, whales, sea cows, porpoises  
46           and others shall be included in this component;

47  
48           (3) *Coastal industries and pollution.* - This component shall focus on  
49           the regulation of industrial activities and water pollution in coastal areas. It shall  
50           study the impact of industrial activities and draw down pollution on coastal

1 environments, to identify and recommend development and regulatory options to  
2 mitigate negative effects;

3  
4 (4) *Resource inventory and assessment.* - This component shall  
5 include activities to identify and estimate existing and future stocks of ecologically  
6 and economically important coastal species;

7  
8 (5) *Research and special projects.* - This component shall include  
9 activities related to the development, testing and application of methodologies to  
10 understand coastal environments and their associated resource systems.  
11 Special projects shall include those, which because of their unique scoping or  
12 funding specifications, may not be associated with the other four (4) components  
13 of the CEP.

14  
15 Future activities of the DENR relating to coastal environments shall be  
16 assigned to any of the five components above.

17  
18 SEC. 6. *CEP Implementation.* - All activities included in the CEP shall  
19 involve three (3) general phases, as follows:

20  
21 1) Information, education and communication (IEC) campaign coupled  
22 with community organizing, to achieve higher levels of participation of local  
23 communities in the activities;

24  
25 2) Introduction of intended interventions of package of developmental  
26 activities for eventual adoption by partner communities and sectors; and

27  
28 3) Monitoring and evaluation of the activity to seek options and  
29 opportunities for follow-up and institutionalization.

30  
31 Each phase may overlap, to the extent deemed needed by the  
32 implementers, to ensure success of the activity.

33  
34  
35 SEC. 7. *Local Government and Community Participation.* - CEP activities  
36 shall, to all extent possible, involve local communities and sectoral organizations  
37 (POs, NGOs and LGUs) in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating  
38 the activity. Leadership in the CEP activities shall be reposed on, or at least  
39 shared by the DENR with the local leaders and community members.

40  
41  
42 SEC. 8. *Trainings.* - The DENR shall give priority to the training of  
43 Department personnel and community leaders in the technical aspects of  
44 resource inventory and assessment as well as proper monitoring and evaluation  
45 of activities, to develop local expertise and to establish a reliable and uniform  
46 data base.

47  
48  
49 SEC. 9. *Program Management.* - Overall direction and management of  
50 the CEP shall be reposed on the DENR Secretary. However, said direction and

1 management affecting the Province of Palawan shall be exercised by the  
2 Palawan Council for Sustainable Development pursuant to Republic Act No.  
3 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan. There is hereby created  
4 a committee to be known as the National Coastal Environment Program Steering  
5 Committee (NCEPSC) which shall assist the DENR Secretary in formulating the  
6 policies and implementing guidelines of the CEP. The NCEPSC shall be  
7 composed of the following:

- 8
- 9 (a) Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, chairman;
  - 10
  - 11 (b) Secretary of Agriculture, member;
  - 12
  - 13 (c) Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources,  
14 member;
  - 15
  - 16 (d) Secretary of Science and Technology, member;
  - 17
  - 18 (e) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, member;
  - 19
  - 20 (f) Director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, member;
  - 21
  - 22 (g) Two (2) representatives from non-government organizations  
23 (NGOs) concerned with coastal environment protection and  
24 conservation, members; and
  - 25
  - 26 (h) Two (2) representatives of national organizations or federations of  
27 fisherfolk organizations to be appointed by the President for a term of  
28 three (3) years, members
  - 29

30 The Secretary shall designate a National Coastal Environment Program  
31 Coordinator who shall assist in the implementation of the Program nationwide.  
32 The NCC shall direct the administrative and technical staff as may be formed by  
33 the Secretary, which shall serve as the coordinating body for all CEP activities.  
34

35 Regional Executive Directors may designate any officer or either Regional  
36 Technical Director (RTD), Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer  
37 (PENRO) or equivalent level to be the Regional CEP Coordinator (RCC), subject  
38 to the approval by the Secretary.  
39

40

41 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.** – The sum necessary to effectively carry out the  
42 provisions of this Act during the first year of implementation shall be sourced  
43 from the appropriations for the coastal environment program of the Department  
44 of Environment and Natural Resources under the current General Appropriations  
45 Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued  
46 implementation which should not be less than the amount of prior years'  
47 appropriations, shall be submitted by the Department of Environment and  
48 Natural Resources to be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1           The Department of Environment and Natural Resources may receive  
2 grants, subsidies, donations or contributions, bequests or gifts, in cash or in kind  
3 from corporations, trusts, foundations, associations and other sources from any  
4 private or government office, agency or corporation in the Philippines or abroad.  
5 The cash receipts and sale of donated commodities shall be deemed  
6 automatically appropriated for purposes specified by the donor.

7  
8           SEC. 11 *Repealing Clause.* – All laws and regulations inconsistent with  
9 this Act are hereby repealed.

10  
11  
12           SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following  
13 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

14  
15  
16 Approved,