



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9325

---

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHUNGALAO, BARZAGA AND YAP (E.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 948

---

**“AN ACT  
DECLARING A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE  
MUNICIPALITIES OF KABAYAN, BOKOD AND BUGUIAS, IN THE  
PROVINCE OF BENGUET, IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINOC,  
PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAYAPA  
IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, A PROTECTED AREA,  
WITH THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE UNDER  
THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM  
(NIPAS), TO BE REFERRED TO AS THE MT. PULAG PROTECTED  
LANDSCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

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

**ARTICLE I**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1  
2  
3       **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Mt. Pulag Protected  
4 Landscape Act”.

5       **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Cognizant of the profound impact of  
6 human activities on all components of the natural environment, it is hereby  
7 declared the policy of the State to secure for the Filipino people of present and  
8 future generations, the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals  
9 through the declaration of protected areas under the National Integrated  
10 Protected Areas System (NIPAS) within the classification of national park as  
11 provided for in the Constitution.

12       In recognition of the richness of the biological resources, both flora and

1 fauna, that are native and distinct to Mt. Pulag, as well as their aesthetic and  
2 ecological importance, a parcel of land located in the Municipalities of Kabayan,  
3 Bokod and Buguias, in the Province of Benguet, Municipality of Tinoc, in the  
4 Province of Ifugao, and Municipality of Kayapa, in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya,  
5 is hereby declared a protected area with the category of protected landscape, and  
6 shall hereinafter be referred to as the Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape (MPPL). As  
7 such, the State shall ensure the conservation, protection, management and  
8 rehabilitation of the area. It is likewise recognized that effective administration of  
9 this area is possible only through cooperation among national government, local  
10 government units (LGUs), concerned nongovernmental organizations (NGOs),  
11 private entities and local communities. The use and enjoyment of this area must  
12 be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable  
13 development.

14 Towards this end, the State shall ensure the full implementation of this Act,  
15 the mobilization of resources for the institutional mechanisms herein established,  
16 and the full scientific and technical support needed for the conservation of  
17 biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystems, culture and indigenous practices.

18 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

- 19 a. *Buffer zones* refer to identified areas outside the boundaries of and  
20 immediately adjacent to designated protected areas that need special  
21 development control in order to avoid or minimize harm to the protected  
22 area;
- 23 b. *Conservation* refers to any act or acts of preservation and sustainable  
24 utilization of wildlife or maintenance, restoration and enhancement of  
25 habitats;
- 26 c. *Indigenous cultural communities (ICCs)/Indigenous peoples (IPs)* refer to  
27 groups of people sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions,  
28 and other distinctive cultural traits, and who have, since time immemorial  
29 occupied, possessed and utilized a territory;
- 30 d. *National park* refers to land of the public domain classified as such in the  
31 Constitution which includes all areas under the NIPAS, primarily

- 1 designated for the conservation of native plants and animals, their  
 2 associated habitats and cultural diversity;
- 3 e. *Protected area* refers to an identified portion of land and water set aside by  
 4 reason of its unique physical and biological significance, managed to  
 5 enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human  
 6 exploitation;
- 7 f. *Protected landscape* refers to an area where the interaction of people and  
 8 nature over a period of time has produced an area of distinct character with  
 9 significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value and where the  
 10 safeguarding of the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and  
 11 sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values;  
 12 and
- 13 g. *Tenured migrants* refer to protected area occupants who have been actually,  
 14 continuously and presently occupying a portion of the protected area for five  
 15 (5) years before the proclamation or law establishing the same as a  
 16 protected area, and are solely dependent therein for subsistence.

17 **SEC. 4. Classification as a National Park.** – The MPPL is comprised of  
 18 a parcel of land of the public domain situated in the Municipalities of Kabayan,  
 19 Bokod and Buguias, in the Province of Benguet, Municipality of Tinoc, in the  
 20 Province of Ifugao, and Municipality of Kayapa, in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya.  
 21 All lands of the public domain within the coverage and scope of the MPPL shall  
 22 fall under the classification of national park as provided for in Article XII, Section  
 23 3 of the Constitution.

24 **SEC. 5. Scope and Coverage.** – The boundaries of the MPPL are more  
 25 particularly described as the area beginning at a point marked “1” on plan, which  
 26 is S 75° 34’ 16” E, 1,342.652 meters from BBM No. 07 with geographic coordinates  
 27 of 16° 36’ 28.09490491” Latitude and 120° 50’ 26.02534396” Longitude located at  
 28 Barangay Duacan, Municipality of Kabayan, Province of Benguet,

- |    |        |               |          |                     |
|----|--------|---------------|----------|---------------------|
| 29 | thence | N 26°02’04” E | 4,333.50 | meters to corner 2; |
| 30 | thence | N 13°11’24” E | 3,330.69 | meters to corner 3; |
| 31 | thence | N 26°21’52” W | 887.241  | meters to corner 4; |
| 32 | thence | N 30°06’56” W | 3930.35  | meters to corner 5; |

1	thence	S 81°22'11" E	113.284	meters to corner 6;
2	thence	S 22°49'03" E	157.302	meters to corner 7;
3	thence	N 70°05'51" E	185.055	meters to corner 8;
4	thence	S 68°56'36" E	200.383	meters to corner 9;
5	thence	N 77°29'44" E	263.248	meters to corner 10;
6	thence	N 82°59'16" E	1900.24	meters to corner 11;
7	thence	S 69°55'33" E	1,911.13	meters to corner 12;
8	thence	S 46°37'44" E	2,839.42	meters to corner 13;
9	thence	S 20°49'59" E	2,238.22	meters to corner 14;
10	thence	S 19°51'23" E	76.547	meters to corner 15;
11	thence	S 66°15'07" E	54.626	meters to corner 16;
12	thence	S 26°45'32" E	133.265	meters to corner 17;
13	thence	S 13°23'36" W	43.172	meters to corner 18;
14	thence	S 36°15'21" E	446.412	meters to corner 19;
15	thence	S 78°59'50" E	36.675	meters to corner 20;
16	thence	S 12°44'46" E	86.118	meters to corner 21;
17	thence	S 40°32'05" E	90.783	meters to corner 22;
18	thence	S 57°05'48" E	40.497	meters to corner 23;
19	thence	S 10°50'28" E	47.851	meters to corner 24;
20	thence	S 73°41'34" E	238.602	meters to corner 25;
21	thence	S 10°05'54" E	74.145	meters to corner 26;
22	thence	N 85°05'35" E	198.731	meters to corner 27;
23	thence	S 71°33'58" E	75.895	meters to corner 28;
24	thence	N 24°35'30" E	64.882	meters to corner 29;
25	thence	S 83°57'23" E	170.953	meters to corner 30;
26	thence	N 43°19'02" E	144.309	meters to corner 31;
27	thence	N 75°04'11" E	124.195	meters to corner 32;
28	thence	S 21°35'48" E	154.864	meters to corner 33;
29	thence	S 46°41'12" E	48.103	meters to corner 34;
30	thence	S 68°39'20" E	93.408	meters to corner 35;
31	thence	S 07°28'20" E	61.519	meters to corner 36;
32	thence	S 36°06'41" W	256.214	meters to corner 37;

1	thence	S 09°27'47" W	109.484	meters to corner 38;
2	thence	N 85°56'27" W	155.392	meters to corner 39;
3	thence	S 38°07'02" W	230.048	meters to corner 40;
4	thence	S 35°52'04" E	182.622	meters to corner 41;
5	thence	S 61°20'59" W	110.535	meters to corner 42;
6	thence	S 03°22'00" E	170.285	meters to corner 43;
7	thence	S 17°31'03" E	2,209.35	meters to corner 44;
8	thence	S 19°04'31" W	4,394.05	meters to corner 45;
9	thence	N 69°07'20" E	103.818	meters to corner 46;
10	thence	N 41°51'42" E	567.938	meters to corner 47;
11	thence	S 75°35'56" E	270.378	meters to corner 48;
12	thence	N 58°13'08" E	262.478	meters to corner 49;
13	thence	S 62°51'17" E	440.528	meters to corner 50;
14	thence	S 75°07'10" E	147.964	meters to corner 51;
15	thence	N 84°19'48" E	141.695	meters to corner 52;
16	thence	S 26°57'38" E	130.137	meters to corner 53;
17	thence	S 32°42'43" W	3697.21	meters to corner 54;
18	thence	S 03°41'00" W	2,241.51	meters to corner 55;
19	thence	S 42°19'10" W	528.775	meters to corner 56;
20	thence	S 20°14'15" E	251.514	meters to corner 57;
21	thence	N 80°42'25" W	4018.8	meters to corner 58;
22	thence	N 36°22'57" W	1,589.96	meters to corner 59;
23	thence	N 36°03'09" W	909.065	meters to corner 60;
24	thence	N 36°52'15" W	1,334.81	meters to corner 61;
25	thence	N 15°03'51" E	2381.72	meters to corner 62;
26	thence	N 18°28'8" W	1,104.85	meters to corner 63;
27	thence	N 83°38'31" W	1,390.57	meters to corner 1,

28 and comprises eleven thousand five hundred eighty and 35/100 (11,580.35)  
29 hectares, more or less.

30       **SEC. 6. *Establishment of Buffer Zones.*** – The DENR Secretary, upon the  
31 recommendation of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) created under  
32 Section 7 of this Act, may designate areas surrounding the MPPL as buffer zones

1 for the purpose of providing an extra layer of protection where restrictions may be  
2 applied: *Provided*, That, in cases where the designated buffer zone would cover  
3 private lands, the owners thereof shall be required to design their development  
4 with due consideration to the protected area management plan.

## 5 ARTICLE II

### 6 MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS

7 SEC. 7. *Protected Area Management Board (PAMB)* – Within ninety  
8 (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, a Protected Area Management Board  
9 (PAMB) shall be created to oversee the management of the MPPL. The PAMB  
10 shall be composed of the following:

- 11 a. DENR Regional Directors for Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) and  
12 Region II, as Chairpersons;
- 13 b. Governors of the Provinces of Benguet, Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya or  
14 their duly authorized representatives;
- 15 c. Senators of the Republic of the Philippines who are duly registered  
16 residents of the Provinces of Benguet, Ifugao or Nueva Vizcaya, or their  
17 duly designated representatives, unless the Senators decline the  
18 membership in the PAMB;
- 19 d. District Representatives of the Congressional Districts where the MPPL  
20 is located, or their duly designated representatives, unless the District  
21 Representatives decline the membership in the PAMB;
- 22 e. Mayors of the Municipalities of Kabayan, Bokod and Buguias, in the  
23 Province of Benguet, Municipality of Tinoc, in the Province of Ifugao,  
24 and Municipality of Kayapa, in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, or their  
25 duly authorized representatives;
- 26 f. Chairpersons of the all the *barangays* with territorial jurisdiction over  
27 the MPPL;
- 28 g. Regional Directors of the following government agencies, namely: the  
29 Department of Agriculture (DA), the National Economic and  
30 Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Science and  
31 Technology (DOST), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the  
32 Department of National Defense (DND);

- 1 h. Three (3) representatives from either NGOs or people's organizations  
2 (PO), based in the Province of Benguet, Ifugao or Nueva Vizcaya, duly  
3 accredited both by the DENR and the provincial government. The NGO  
4 or PO represented should have been in existence for at least five (5) years  
5 and must have a record of accomplishments in the field of protected area  
6 management;
- 7 i. At least one (1) but not more than three (3) representatives from all the  
8 ICC/ IP present in the area and recognized by the National Commission  
9 on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- 10 j. One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a  
11 university or college in the Province of Benguet, Ifugao, or Nueva  
12 Vizcaya, with a record of accomplishments in or related to protected area  
13 management; and
- 14 k. One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of  
15 the Province of Benguet, Ifugao, or Nueva Vizcaya, who is distinguished  
16 in a profession or field of interest relevant to the protected area  
17 management.

18 The terms of office of members of the PAMB, as well as the grounds for  
19 their removal shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7586,  
20 otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992"  
21 as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, otherwise known as the "Expanded  
22 National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018".

23 **SEC. 8. *Functions of the PAMB.*** – The PAMB shall have the following  
24 powers and functions:

- 25 a. Oversee the management of the protected area;
- 26 b. Approve policies, plans and programs, proposals, agreements, and other  
27 related documents for the management of the protected areas;
- 28 c. Approve the management plan of the protected area and ensure its  
29 harmonization with and integration into the Ancestral Domain Sustainable  
30 Development and Protection Plan, land use plan and other development  
31 plans, public or private, and their implementation;
- 32 d. Adopt a manual of operations to include rules of procedures in the conduct

- 1 of business, and the creation of committees and their respective terms of  
2 reference;
- 3 e. Recommend the deputation of appropriate agencies and individuals for the  
4 enforcement of the laws, rules and regulations governing the management  
5 of the protected area;
- 6 f. Allocate financial resources for the implementation of the management plan  
7 and manage the Protected Area Retention Income Account and other funds  
8 in accordance with government accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules  
9 and regulations;
- 10 g. Set fees and charges in accordance with existing guidelines;
- 11 h. Issue rules and regulations for the resolution of conflicts through  
12 appropriate and effective means;
- 13 i. Recommend appropriate policy changes to the DENR and other government  
14 authorities with respect to the management of the MPPL;
- 15 j. Monitor and assess the performance of the Protected Area Superintendent  
16 (PASu) and other protected area personnel and compliance of partners with  
17 the terms and conditions of any undertaking, contract or agreement relative  
18 to any project or activity within the MPPL;
- 19 k. Recommend from among a shortlist of qualified candidates, the designation  
20 or appointment of the PASu; and
- 21 l. Assess the effectiveness of the management of the protected area: *Provided,*  
22 That the members of the PAMB representing the LGUs and national  
23 agencies shall inform their respective constituents, offices or sectors, of  
24 PAMB-approved or other relevant policies, rules, regulations, programs,  
25 and projects and shall ensure that the provisions of this Act and the rules  
26 and regulations issued to implement it are complied with and used as  
27 reference and framework in their respective plans, policies, programs, and  
28 projects. Failure to comply with the foregoing shall be the basis for  
29 disciplinary action against such member according to administrative rules  
30 and regulations and such penalties as the PAMB may provide: *Provided,*  
31 *further,* That the DENR, through the Regional Director, shall ensure that  
32 the PAMB acts within the scope of its powers and functions. In case of



1 conflict between the resolutions issued by the PAMB and the existing  
2 administrative orders of national application, the latter shall prevail.

3 **SEC. 9. *The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO).*** — There is  
4 hereby established a Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) to be headed by  
5 a Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) who shall supervise the day to day  
6 management, protection, and administration of the MPPL. The PASu shall hold  
7 a permanent plantilla position and shall be appointed by the DENR Secretary. A  
8 sufficient number of support staff with permanent plantilla positions shall  
9 likewise be appointed by the DENR Secretary to assist the PASu in the  
10 management of the protected area.

11 The PASu shall be primarily accountable to the PAMB and the DENR for  
12 the management and operations of the MPPL. Pursuant thereto, the PASu shall  
13 have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 14 a. Prepare the management plan, in consultation with the stakeholders,  
15 including the annual work and financial plan and ensure its  
16 implementation;
- 17 b. Ensure the integration of the protected area management plans, programs,  
18 projects, and policies with relevant national and LGUs' plans and programs;
- 19 c. Provide secretariat services to the PAMB and its committees and ensure the  
20 availability of relevant and timely information for decision-making;
- 21 d. Formulate and recommend to the PAMB proposed policies, rules,  
22 regulations, and programs;
- 23 e. Establish, operate, and maintain a database management system which  
24 shall be an important basis for decision-making;
- 25 f. Enforce the laws, rules and regulations relevant to the protected area,  
26 commence and institute administrative and legal actions in collaboration  
27 with other government agencies or organizations, and assist in the  
28 prosecution of offenses committed in violation of the provisions of this Act;
- 29 g. Monitor, evaluate, and report the implementation of management activities  
30 of the protected area;
- 31 h. Request for and receive any technical assistance, support or advice from any  
32 agency or instrumentality of the government as well as academic

- 1 institutions, NGOs, and the private sector, as may be necessary for the  
2 effective management, protection and administration of the protected area;
- 3 i. Issue permits and clearances for activities that implement the management  
4 plan and other permitted activities in accordance with terms, conditions,  
5 and criteria established by the PAMB: *Provided*, That all permits for  
6 extraction of natural resources, including collection of wildlife, and its by-  
7 products or derivatives for research purposes, shall continue to be issued by  
8 relevant authorities, subject to prior clearance from the PAMB, through the  
9 PASu, in accordance with the specific acts to be covered;
  - 10 j. Collect and receive pertinent fees, charges, donations, and other income for  
11 the protected area: *Provided*, That such fees, charges, donations, and other  
12 income collected and received shall be reported regularly to the PAMB and  
13 the DENR in accordance with existing guidelines;
  - 14 k. Prepare and recommend to the PAMB, approval of the annual work and  
15 financial plans of the protected area based on the management plan; and
  - 16 l. Perform such other functions as the PAMB and the DENR may assign.

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

20 **ARTICLE III**  
21 **PROCEEDS AND FEES**

22 **SEC. 10. *The Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape Fund.*** – There is hereby  
23 established a trust fund to be known as the Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape Fund  
24 for purposes of financing projects of the MPPL and the NIPAS. All income  
25 generated from the operation and management of wild flora and fauna in the  
26 MPPL shall accrue to the fund. The income shall be derived from fees from  
27 permitted sale and export of flora and fauna and other resources from the MPPL,  
28 proceeds from lease of multiple-use areas, contributions from industries and  
29 facilities directly benefiting from the MPPL, and such other fees and income  
30 derived from the operation of the MPPL.

31 The PAMB shall retain seventy-five percent (75%) of all revenues raised  
32 through the above means, which shall be deposited in the Protected Area-Retained

1 Income Account (PA-RIA) in any authorized government depository bank within  
2 the locality: *Provided*, That disbursements out of such deposits shall be used solely  
3 for the protection, maintenance, administration, and management of the protected  
4 area and implementation of duly approved projects of the PAMB. The remaining  
5 twenty-five percent (25%) of revenues shall be deposited as a special account in  
6 the general fund in the National Treasury for purposes of financing the programs  
7 and projects of the NIPAS.

8 The fund may be augmented by grants, donations, endowment from various  
9 sources, domestic or foreign: *Provided*, That the fund shall be deposited in full as  
10 a special account in the National Treasury and disbursements therefrom shall be  
11 made solely for the protection, maintenance, administration and management of  
12 the NIPAS and duly approved projects endorsed by the PAMB in accordance with  
13 existing accounting, budgeting and auditing rules and regulations: *Provided*,  
14 *further*, That the fund shall not be used to cover personal services expenditures.

15 The LGUs shall continue to impose and collect all other fees not enumerated  
16 herein which they have traditionally collected, such as business permits, property  
17 tax and rentals of LGUs' facilities.

#### 18 ARTICLE IV

#### 19 TRANSITORY AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

20 **SEC. 11. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately  
21 include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding  
22 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

23 **SEC. 12. *Suppletory Application of the NIPAS Law.*** – The provisions  
24 of Republic Act No. 7586 as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, shall have  
25 suppletory application to this Act.

26 **SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90)  
27 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR shall, in  
28 consultation with the local governments of the Municipalities of Kabayan, Bokod  
29 and Buguias, in the Province of Benguet, the Municipality of Tinoc, in the Province  
30 of Ifugao, and Municipality of Kayapa, in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, the  
31 provincial governments of Benguet, Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya, and concerned  
32 national government agencies, issue the corresponding rules and regulations for

1 the effective implementation of this Act.

2       **SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.*** – If any section or provision of this Act is  
3 held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections or provisions with the  
4 provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

5       **SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, letters of instruction,  
6 executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof  
7 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8       **SEC. 16. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
9 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation

Approved,