


SENATE  
S. No. 1985

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Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

About ninety percent (90%) of all coral species in the Philippines are found in the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) in the Municipality of Cagayancillo, Palawan. Its fish biomass as of 2006 is 322 metric tons per square kilometers (mt/km<sup>2</sup>), highly remarkable compared to the 20-30 mt/km<sup>2</sup> which marine scientists believe that a reef of average health can produce. Its islets provide home to the largest population of seabirds in the Philippines. Eleven of the 27 marine mammal species in the country make Tubbataha their home. Eleven species of sharks, the apex species in the marine environment, can be found in its waters. It is considered by many experts as one of the best dive sites in the world.

The biodiversity of Tubbataha is unparalleled in the Philippines. Its value is not only aesthetic but economic as well. Marine scientists have proven that *Tubbataha seeds the reefs around the Sulu Sea*, thereby enriching fisheries and supporting the livelihoods and ensuring the food security of millions of Filipinos.

The Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park was established on August 11, 1988 as a 33,200-hectare no-take reserve through Presidential Proclamation No. 306 by President Corazon Aquino. On August 23, 2007, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo expanded the coverage of the Park to 96,828 has. through Presidential Proclamation 1126. At the same time, the park was renamed Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park.

However, the significance of Tubbataha goes beyond the country's boundaries. It was inscribed in the World Heritage List on December 11, 1993 in recognition of its outstanding universal values. It is also inscribed in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance due to its value to congregating seabirds and coral reefs.


Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. The NIPAS Act (RA 7586) provides that the State shall "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 with the classification of national park as provided for in the Constitution". The Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Law (RA 7611) provides for the adoption of a comprehensive framework for the sustainable development of Palawan compatible with protecting and enhancing the natural resources and endangered environment of the Province of Palawan.

As marine resources dwindle and populations increase globally, threats to the integrity of marine protected areas intensify. As challenges in the management of Tubbataha evolve, the government will have to rely on an active public constituency that supports conservation to achieve its conservation goals.

This bill is a product of public consultations with various stakeholders in the island Municipality of Cagayancillo and Puerto Princesa City. Among others, this Bill provides for the following:


- Metes and bounds of TRNP;
- The institutional mechanisms for its management with emphasis on the precedence of local management institutions;
- *Processes for participatory decision-making concerning the conservation of TRNP.*

It therefore reflects the aspirations of the various stakeholders of Tubbataha and their exemplary concern for this unique marine jewel.

  
"COMPANERA" PIA S. CAYETANO  
Senator

7 DEC 19 2014

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK  
IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN UNDER THE NIPAS ACT (RA 7586) AND  
THE SEP LAW (RA 7611), PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1       **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known and referred to as the  
2 "Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) Act of 2008".

3  
4       **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** It shall be the declared policy of the  
5 State to ensure the protection and conservation of the globally significant  
6 economic, biological, socio-cultural, educational, and scientific values of the  
7 Tubbataha Reefs into perpetuity for the enjoyment of present and future  
8 generations. These shall be pursued through sustainable and participatory  
9 management, taking into consideration all applicable laws and international  
10 conventions to which the Philippines is a signatory.

11  
12       **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** For purposes of this Act, the following  
13 terms shall be defined as follows:

14  
15       a. "Bioprospecting" shall refer to research, collection and utilization of  
16 biological and genetic resources for purposes of applying the knowledge  
17 derived therefrom solely for commercial purposes.

18  
19       b. "Buffer Zone" is the identified area 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

- 1 c. "Commercial fishers/fisherfolk" shall refer to persons who catch fish and  
2 other fishery products using fishing vessels of more than three (3) gross  
3 tons.  
4
- 5 d. "Conservation Fees" shall refer to fees collected from authorized users of  
6 the TRNP.  
7
- 8 e. "Coral" shall refer to all bottom dwelling animals under the phylum  
9 Cnidaria, which are a major part of the reef community. The definition  
10 includes four types of corals, 1) those that produce a hard skeleton out of  
11 calcium carbonate such as all scleractinian corals, the hydrozoan corals  
12 (firecorals), and the blue and red corals under the genera *Heliopora* and  
13 *Tubipora*; 2) the antipatharian or black corals with a rigid, chitinous  
14 skeleton; 3) the gorgonians with a horny and/or calcareous axis; and 4)  
15 the soft bodied anthozoans such as sea anemones, and the soft corals  
16 under the systematical group of Alcyonaria or Octocorallia.  
17
- 18 f. "Exotic species" shall refer to species or subspecies that do not naturally  
19 occur within the biogeographic region of the TRNP at present or in  
20 historical time.  
21
- 22 g. "Explosives" shall refer to dynamite, other explosives or other chemical  
23 compounds that contain combustible elements or ingredients which upon  
24 ignition by friction, concussion, percussion or detonation of all or parts of  
25 the compound will kill, stupefy, disable or render unconscious any species.  
26 It also refers to any other substance and/or device, including blasting caps  
27 or any other component or part of explosive devices, which causes an  
28 explosion that is capable of producing the said harmful effects on any  
29 resources and capable of damaging and altering the natural habitat.  
30
- 31 h. "Gear" shall refer to any instrument or device and its accessories utilized  
32 in taking, catching, gathering, killing, hunting, destroying, disturbing,  
33 removing or possessing resources within the TRNP.  
34
- 35 i. "Kayakas" shall refer to the fishing method known as the local version of  
36 the muro-ami but smaller in size, using bamboo or trunk trees as scaring  
37 devices aside from coconut or other leaves or materials to drive the fishes

1 and other marine resources out of the coral reefs while at the same time  
2 pounding the corals.

3

4 j. "Littering" shall refer to the disposal of small amount of non-biodegradable  
5 solid waste materials, such as, but not limited to, cigarette butts, candy  
6 wrappers, plastic materials, bottles, glasses, in the TRNP.

7

8 k. "Municipal fishers/fisherfolk" shall refer to persons who catch fish and  
9 other fishery products using fishing vessels of three (3) gross tons or less,  
10 or whose fishing does not require the use of fishing vessels.

11

12 l. "Muro-ami" shall refer to the method used in reef fishing consisting of a  
13 movable bagnet, detachable wings and scarelines having plastic strips  
14 and iron/steel/stone weights, effecting fish capture by spreading the net in  
15 an arc around reefs or shoals and, with the use of the scarelines, a cordon  
16 of people drive the fish towards the waiting net while pounding the corals  
17 by means of heavy weights like iron/steel/stone or rock making it  
18 destructive to corals.

19

20 m. "Non-Government Organization (NGO)" shall refer to any civic,  
21 developmental, environmental or philanthropic non-stock, non-profit  
22 organization, duly registered, having by-laws, democratically-elected  
23 representatives, with qualifications, expertise and objectivity in activities  
24 concerning community organizing and development, or resource and  
25 environmental conservation, management and protection related to the  
26 protected area.

27

28 n. "Non-renewable Resources" shall refer to those resources that cannot be  
29 re-made, re-grown or regenerated on a scale comparative to its  
30 consumption.

31

32 o. "Noxious or Poisonous Substances" shall refer to any substance, plant  
33 extracts or juice thereof, sodium cyanide and/or cyanide compounds or  
34 other chemicals either in raw or processed form, harmful or harmless to  
35 human beings, which will kill, stupefy, disable or render unconscious any  
36 marine organism and capable of damaging and altering the natural  
37 habitat.

38

- 1 p. "PCSD" shall refer to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development  
2 as created under Republic Act 7611, otherwise known as the Strategic  
3 Environmental Plan for Palawan Act.  
4
- 5 q. "People's Organization (PO)" shall refer to a group of people which may  
6 be an association, cooperative, federation, aggrupation of individuals or  
7 groups with an identifiable structure of decision-making and accountability,  
8 established to undertake collective action to address community concerns  
9 and needs in relation to the protected area.  
10
- 11 r. "PaSu" shall refer to the Park Superintendent of the TRNP.  
12
- 13 s. "Poaching" shall refer to fishing or operating any fishing vessel, gathering  
14 and/or purchase *or possession* of any fishery products within Philippine  
15 waters by any foreign person, corporation or entity.  
16
- 17 t. "Protected Area" shall refer to identified portions of land and water set  
18 aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance,  
19 managed to enhance *biological diversity* and protected against destructive  
20 human exploitation.  
21
- 22 u. "Protected species" shall refer to any plant or animal declared protected  
23 under Philippine laws, rules and regulations. These shall include all  
24 species listed under the Convention of International Trade of Endangered  
25 Species (CITES) and all its Annexes, the Bonn Convention on Migratory  
26 Animals, those specified under the red-list categories of the International  
27 Conservation of Nature (IUCN), or any plant or animal which the TMB or  
28 any government agency may deem necessary for conservation and  
29 preservation in the TRNP.  
30
- 31 v. "Purse Seine" shall refer to the gear characterized by encircling net having  
32 a line at the bottom passing through rings attached to the net, which can  
33 be drawn or pursed. In general, the net is set from a boat or boats around  
34 the school of aquatic resources. The bottom of the net is pulled closed  
35 with the purse line. The net is then pulled aboard the boat or boats until  
36 the resources are concentrated in the bunt or bag.  
37

1 w. "Resources" shall refer to all natural endowments, whether aquatic or  
2 terrestrial, living or non-living, found in TRNP.

3  
4 x. "Stakeholders" shall refer to any individuals, communities, agencies,  
5 institutions, organizations, aggrupations of specific interests or sectors  
6 which have particular interest in the achievement of the objectives of this  
7 Act, and/or enjoyment or utilization in any form of the resources within the  
8 TRNP.

9  
10 y. "Trawl" shall refer to the gear consisting of a bag-shaped net which is  
11 dragged or towed along the bottom or through the water column to take  
12 aquatic resources by straining them from the water, including all variations  
13 and modifications of trawls in bottom, mid-water, baby trawls, and tow  
14 nets.

15  
16 z. "Vessel" includes every description of watercraft, including non-  
17 displacement crafts and seaplanes, used or capable of being used as a  
18 means of transportation on water. It shall include everything found  
19 therein, except personal effec  
20 aa. "Waste" shall refer to discarded items of  
21 solid, liquid, contained gaseous or semi-solid form, and from whatever  
22 source, which may cause or contribute to the deterioration of the  
23 resources or habitats in the TRNP.

24 aa. "Waste" shall refer to discarded items of solid, liquid, contained gaseous  
25 or semi-solid form, and from whatever source, which may cause or  
26 contribute to the deterioration of the resources or habitats in the TRNP.  
27

28 **SECTION 4. Scope and Coverage.** The Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park  
29 (TRNP), which shall cover an approximate area of **NINETY SIX THOUSAND**  
30 **EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT (96,828) HECTARES**, including its islets,  
31 seabed and airspace, and which shall include the Tubbataha Reefs and the  
32 Jessie Beazley Reef in the Municipality of Cagayancillo, in the Province of  
33 Palawan, is hereby declared as a protected area. Its boundaries shall be as  
34 follows:

35  
36

	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
37 From Pt. 1	9°04' 52" N	119°46' 10" E
38 to Pt. 2	9°06' 05" N	119°48' 22" E

1 to Pt. 3 8°58' 09" N 120°03' 12" E  
 2 to Pt. 4 8°53' 29" N 120°03' 30" E  
 3 to Pt. 5 8°41' 33" N 119°50' 41" E  
 4 to Pt. 6 8°43' 09" N 119°45' 46" E  
 5 to point 1, the point of beginning.

6

7 All lands of the public domain comprising the TRNP shall fall under the  
 8 classification of national park as provided for in the Philippine constitution. he  
 9 technical descriptions provided in this Act will be subject to actual  
 10 survey/delineation.

11

12 The metes and bounds of the TRNP shall be indicated on maps and/ or  
 13 nautical charts. Any modification of the coverage of this Act due to such factors  
 14 as changing ecological situation, new scientific or archeological findings, or  
 15 discovery of traditional boundaries not previously taken into account shall be  
 16 made through an Act of Congress, after consultation with the concerned  
 17 government agencies.

18

19 **SECTION 5. Establishment of a Buffer Zone.** There shall also be  
 20 established a 10-nautical mile buffer zone from the TRNP, with the following  
 21 coordinates:

22

23	Corner	Latitude	Longitude
24	1	9°17' 49" N	119°47' 42" E
25	2	9°04' 48" N	120°12' 40" E
26	3	8°49' 42" N	120°13' 54" E
27	4	8°29' 42" N	119°53' 04" E
28	5	8°36' 13" N	119°35' 22" E
29	6	9°11' 08" N	119°36' 35" E
30	7	9°17' 49" N	119°47' 42" E

31

32 **SECTION 6. Management of the TRNP.** The management and  
 33 administration of the TRNP shall be vested with the Tubbataha Protected Area  
 34 Management Board (TPAMB), as herein provided. Management of zones to be  
 35 established within the TRNP shall be consultative and participatory.

36

37 **SECTION 7. Management Plan.** Within one (1) year from the effectivity of  
 38 this Act, there shall be a Management Plan to be prepared by the Tubbataha



1 Management Office in coordination with the local community and various  
2 stakeholders, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), the  
3 Municipal Government of Cagayancillo, the Provincial Government of Palawan,  
4 and with assistance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
5 (DENR) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). The  
6 Management Plan shall contain, among others:

- 7
- 8 a. a period of applicability for ten (10) years subject to periodic review  
9 every three (3) years;
  - 10
  - 11 b. goals and objectives of management in support of Section 2 hereof;  
12
  - 13 c. key management issues, such as, but not limited to, issuance,  
14 screening and approval of all development and resource-use  
15 activities within the TRNP; adequate protection and restoration of  
16 endangered species and fragile ecosystems;
  - 17
  - 18 d. site management strategy including, but not limited to,  
19 establishment of clear and simplified guidelines on the activities  
20 that can be allowed within the zones, including the buffer zones;  
21
  - 22 e. major management activities, such as, but not limited to,  
23 enforcement of laws, habitats and wildlife management, sustainable  
24 use management, infrastructure development and maintenance,  
25 fire prevention, pest and disease control, and disaster  
26 management;
  - 27
  - 28 f. a zoning plan, which shall be established within the TRNP giving  
29 primary consideration to the protection and conservation of all life  
30 forms, in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.  
31 Zoning shall also take into consideration the efficient protection of  
32 habitats, fragile ecosystems and unique areas. The establishment  
33 and management of zones shall involve the concerned  
34 stakeholders by undertaking such steps as dialogue, and  
35 community and resource-use mapping. The metes and bounds of  
36 each zone shall be indicated on maps and/or nautical charts;
  - 37

1 g. mechanism for the protection, regulation and prohibition of those  
2 within the TRNP, in accordance with their rights;

3  
4 h. mechanisms to ensure consultative and participatory decision-  
5 making processes.

6  
7 The Management Plan shall be consistent with the nature of the TRNP as  
8 a protected area. It shall be reviewed and approved by the TPAMB, and  
9 submitted to the PCSD and the DENR.

10  
11. **SECTION 8. Successor Plan.** Before the expiration of the initial  
12 Management Plan, there shall be a successor plan to be prepared by the  
13 Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) in the same manner as the procedure and  
14 principles herein set forth. Two years before the expiration of the Management  
15 Plan, the Park Manager (PM) shall cause the publication of notices for comments  
16 and suggestions on the successor plan using all available media, but at least in a  
17 newspaper of local circulation, and the posting of such notices in the provincial,  
18 municipal and barangay halls and in three (3) other conspicuous areas  
19 frequented by the public. The successor plan to the Management Plan shall be  
20 made available to the public for perusal at the office and sub-offices of the PM  
21 and the PCSD.

22  
23 **SECTION 9. Creation and Composition of the Tubbataha Protected**  
24 **Area Management Board (TPAMB).** There shall be a Tubbataha Protected  
25 Area Management Board (TPAMB), which shall be the sole policy-making and  
26 permit-granting body of the TRNP. It shall be composed of:

27  
28 a. The Regional Executive Director of Region IV-B of the DENR to  
29 serve as Co-Chairperson;

30  
31 b. The Chairperson of the Palawan Council for Sustainable  
32 Development, or his/her representative, to serve as Co-  
33 Chairperson;

34  
35 c. The Representatives of the Congressional Districts in Palawan, or  
36 their representatives;

37  
38 d. The Governor of the Province of Palawan or his/her representative;

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- e. The Mayor of the Municipality of Cagayancillo or his/her representative;
- f. The Chairperson of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Sangguniang Bayan of Cagayancillo;
- g. The Chairperson of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Palawan;
- h. The Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Palawan;
- i. The Commander of the Western Command (WESCOM) or his/her representative;
- j. The Commander of the Naval Forces West (NAVFORWEST) or his/her representative;
- k. The District Commander of the Coast Guard District – Palawan (CGD-Palawan);
- l. A representative of the Department of Tourism;
- m. The Provincial Fishery Officer of the DA-BFAR in Palawan, or his/her representative;
- n. At least two (2) representatives from the academe;
- o. A representative of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff;
- p. At least three (3) representatives from NGOs involved in the conservation and management of the TRNP;

1 q. At least two (2) representatives from people's organizations (PO)  
2 based in the Municipality of Cagayancillo, Palawan, and concerned  
3 with the conservation and management of the TRNP.

4  
5 Every TPAMB member shall serve for a term of five (5) years: *Provided,*  
6 *That,* he/she remains connected with the sector or office he/she represents.  
7 Whenever a vacancy occurs during the term of a member who does not  
8 represent the government, a new member shall be chosen in the same manner  
9 as the original process to serve the remaining term of his/her predecessor.

10  
11 The TPAMB *en banc* shall hold regular meetings at least once every  
12 quarter. However, the Executive Committee, as provided herein, may meet on  
13 a more regular basis to discuss regular day-to-day affairs and other matters  
14 delegated by the TPAMB.

15  
16 **SECTION 10. *Executive and Other Committees of the TPAMB.*** There  
17 shall be an Executive Committee (ExeCom) to which the TPAMB may delegate  
18 some of its powers and functions. Its members shall be chosen by the TPAMB  
19 from among themselves.

20  
21 The TPAMB may create other committees as it may deem necessary.

22  
23 **SECTION 11. *Incentives of TPAMB Members.*** In addition to actual and  
24 necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of  
25 their duties, TPAMB members may be granted *honoraria* and insurance  
26 coverage in attending TPAMB or other TPAMB committee meetings. These  
27 expenses may be included in the budget for TRNP.

28  
29 **SECTION 12. *Rules of Procedure.*** The TPAMB shall determine by  
30 appropriate resolution its procedural rules, which shall include discipline and  
31 removal of its officers and members.

32  
33 **SECTION 13. *Powers and Functions of the TPAMB.*** The TPAMB shall  
34 have the following powers and functions:

35  
36 a. Decide matters relating to planning, resource use and protection,  
37 and general administration of the area in accordance with the  
38 Management Plan;

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- b. Approve budget allocations, proposals, work plans, action plans, guidelines for management of the TRNP in accordance with the Management Plan and its policies;
- c. *Coordinate with national and local agencies, local government units, local communities, the academe, non-governmental organizations, and such other institutions to ensure the conservation and management of the TRNP;*
- d. *Initiate the implementation of the delineation of the boundaries of the TRNP;*
- e. Promulgate rules and regulations to promote development programs and projects on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development within the TRNP and consistent with the Management Plan;
- f. Ensure the implementation and enforcement of laws, rules and regulations, policies, programs and projects within the TRNP;
- g. Control and regulate construction, operation and maintenance of structure and utilities within the TRNP;
- h. Monitor and evaluate the performance of the TMO and all those implementing activities and projects in TRNP;
- i. Appoint the TRNP PaSu, and, upon recommendation of the PaSu, appoint management personnel based on internal selection criteria and decide on their compensation and benefits;
- j. Generate funds and accept donations, grants, appropriate and disburse the same, and exercise accountability over all funds that may accrue to the TRNP;
- k. Manage the TRNP Trust Fund, as herein provided;

- 1 l. Exercise quasi-judicial functions for adjudicating cases of violations  
2 of this Act and exact fines and fees for violations of guidelines,  
3 rules and regulations within the TRNP;  
4
- 5 m. Deputize individuals for the enforcement of laws, rules and  
6 regulations governing conduct within the TRNP, and prescribe the  
7 necessary qualifications therefore;  
8
- 9 n. *Designate collecting officers for funds generated by the TRNP, and*  
10 *formulate procedure for the disbursement thereof in accordance*  
11 *with accounting and auditing rules and regulations;*  
12
- 13 o. Retain legal counsel to defend cases against the TPAMB and the  
14 Office of the PaSu whenever they are sued in connection with the  
15 performance of their duties under this Act, guidelines, and rules and  
16 regulations pertaining to the TRNP;  
17
- 18 p. Provide adequate measures to ensure consultation and  
19 participation of stakeholders;  
20
- 21 q. Determine, based on existing scientific evidence, laws, rules and  
22 regulations, *international instruments, traditional resource*  
23 *utilization, management modalities in the area, carrying capacity,*  
24 *and observing precautionary principle, the modes of utilization of*  
25 *the TRNP and all the resources found therein;*  
26
- 27 r. Possess the exclusive authority to issue permits and conditions  
28 thereto, and determine and collect fees, for the utilization and  
29 enjoyment of the TRNP and the resources therein: *Provided, That,*  
30 *the TPAMB may delegate to the PaSu the authority to issue*  
31 *permits, and collect fees for temporary access to the TRNP such*  
32 *as, visiting or diving, subject to the limits as may be determined by*  
33 *the TPAMB: Provided, However, That, entry into the TRNP for*  
34 *emergency reasons shall not be subject to permit and users' fees;*  
35
- 36 s. Perform such other functions necessary for the fulfillment of the  
37 provisions of this Act and other applicable laws, rules and  
38 regulations, and as may be required.

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**SECTION 14. Tubbataha Management Office (TMO).** There shall be a Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) to be headed by the TRNP PaSu who shall serve as the Chief Operating Officer of the entire TRNP. The TPAMB will determine the staffing pattern, qualification standards and hiring procedures for the TMO. The PaSu and his/her staff shall hold office in a place to be designated by the TPAMB: *Provided, That, the TPAMB may authorize the establishment of sub-offices for purposes of convenience, safety, accessibility, economy, and such other justifiable reasons: Provided, Further, That, at least a sub-office shall be established within the TRNP.*

The PaSu shall have full responsibility for the protection of resources within the TRNP. As such, he/she shall have the following duties and responsibilities in addition to those provided under existing laws and regulations:

- a. Prepare the Management Plan and its successor plans as herein provided;
- b. Serve as Secretary to the TPAMB with the duty to provide the TPAMB with all the information necessary to make appropriate decisions for the implementation of this Act;
- c. Hire non-management personnel of the TRNP, and recommend management personnel to the TPAMB;
- d. Supervise TRNMP personnel in the performance of their duties and functions;
- e. Establish productive partnership with national and local agencies, local government units, local communities, the academe, non-governmental organizations, and such other institutions to ensure the conservation and management of the TRNP;
- f. Develop and implement park information, interpretation, education and other visitor programs;

- 1 g. Enforce the laws, rules and regulations and TPAMB resolutions  
2 relevant to the TRNP, file complaints, and assist in the prosecution  
3 of offenses;  
4
- 5 h. Monitor all activities within the TRNP in conformity with the  
6 Management Plan;  
7
- 8 i. Ensure that consultative and participatory mechanisms are  
9 maximized in decision-making;  
10
- 11 j. Perform such other functions as the TPAMB may assign.  
12

13 **SECTION 15. *Role of Local Government Units.*** Local government  
14 units of Palawan and Cagayancillo shall participate in the management of the  
15 TRNP through their representation in the TPAMB. The provisions of this Act  
16 shall be incorporated into the municipal and provincial development plans of  
17 Cagayancillo and Palawan, respectively, and the Regional Development Plan as  
18 part of the environmental concerns of the province and the region. The national  
19 and local government units shall likewise ensure that local ordinances pertaining  
20 to the environment are consistent with this Act and the Management Plan, as  
21 herein provided.  
22

23 **SECTION 16. *Role of DENR and PCSD.*** The DENR and PCSD shall  
24 coordinate closely to ensure the sound management and conservation of the  
25 TRNP, provide technical and financial assistance to the TRNP as may be  
26 needed, and appoint representatives to the TPAMB.  
27

28 **SECTION 17. *Fiscal Matters.*** The TRNP shall exercise fiscal autonomy.  
29 It shall have the sole power to decide on the use of its funds from whatever  
30 source: *Provided, That,* the Municipality of Cagayancillo, Palawan shall have a  
31 share of at least ten percent (10%) of the conservation fees paid to TRNP.  
32

33 **SECTION 18. *The TRNP Fund.*** There is hereby created a special trust  
34 account to be known as Tubbataha Trust Fund. All the fees, penalties, donations,  
35 grants, endowments, revenues and any other income pertaining to the TRNP  
36 shall automatically accrue to this fund. The fund shall be used for the purpose of  
37 financing projects and activities in the TRNP to attain the objectives of this Act.



1 Donations, grants and endowments to TRNP shall be exempt from the donor's  
2 tax and the same shall be considered as allowably deduction from the gross  
3 income in the computation of the income tax of the donor.

4  
5 **SECTION 19. *Energy and Non-Renewable Resources.*** Any exploration,  
6 exploitation or utilization of non-renewable resources, such as but not limited to  
7 minerals and oil, within the TRNP shall not be allowed. Energy projects shall be  
8 allowed only through an act of Congress.

9  
10 **SECTION 20. *Unauthorized Entry, Enjoyment or Use.*** No person or  
11 entity shall enter, enjoy or utilize any portion of the TRNP and the resources  
12 therein for whatever purpose without prior permission from the TPAMB as herein  
13 provided.

14  
15 The TRNP shall be off limits to navigation, except for activities that are  
16 sanctioned by the TPAMB such as, but not limited to, tourism and research.  
17 Except in emergency situations, it shall be unlawful to enter TRNP without prior  
18 permission from the TPAMB or the PaSu as herein provided. It shall also be  
19 unlawful to enter, enjoy or use for any purpose any prohibited management zone.  
20 This rule shall similarly apply to the use of vessels, gears and equipment in  
21 management zones where such are not allowed.

22  
23 Violation of this Section shall subject the responsible person or entity to an  
24 administrative fine of from Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) to One Hundred  
25 Thousand Pesos (P100,000), as may be determined by the TPAMB. If the  
26 violator is a commercial fisher/fisherfolk, the fine shall be Five Hundred  
27 Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00).

28  
29 **SECTION 21. *Damages to the Reef.*** Damages to the reef shall subject  
30 the responsible person or entity to the payment of administrative fines set by the  
31 TPAMB based on current valuation standards and to the payment of the cost of  
32 restoration.

33  
34 **SECTION 22. *Non-payment of Conservation Fees.*** It shall be unlawful  
35 for any person or entity to enjoy or utilize the TRNP and the resources therein  
36 without payment of conservation fees as may be imposed by the TPAMB.

37

1 Violators of this Section shall, in addition to the payment of the  
2 conservation fee, pay the administrative fine of double the amount of the  
3 conservation fee set by the TPAMB for the activity undertaken.

4  
5 **SECTION 23. *Anchoring.*** It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to  
6 hold fast or secure a vessel in place either by using an anchor or by tying on to  
7 any part of the reef. All vessels shall utilize the mooring buoys provided by the  
8 TRNP.

9  
10 Violation of this Section shall be penalized with an administrative fine of  
11 not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and not more than Fifty  
12 Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).

13  
14 **SECTION 24. *Dumping of Waste and Littering.*** It shall be unlawful for  
15 any person or entity to dump waste inside the TRNP. It shall likewise be unlawful  
16 to clean and change oil of vessels within the TRNP.

17  
18 Violation of this provision shall be punishable by imprisonment of six (6)  
19 months to one (1) year, and fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos  
20 (P5,000.00). The TPAMB shall impose an administrative fine of not less than  
21 Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) and not more than One Hundred Thousand  
22 Pesos (P100,000.00), and order the violator to clean up the waste or pay for the  
23 clean-up thereof.

24  
25 *It shall likewise be unlawful to litter within the TRNP.*

26  
27 Violation of this provision shall be penalized by the TPAMB with  
28 administrative fine of from Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to Ten Thousand  
29 Pesos (P10,000.00).

30  
31 **SECTION 25. *Bioprospecting without Permit.*** It shall be unlawful to  
32 conduct bioprospecting within the TRNP without prior permit from the TPAMB  
33 and other concerned agencies.

34  
35 Violation of this Section shall be punished with imprisonment of six (6)  
36 months to six (6) years; fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) to  
37 One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00); and forfeiture of the resources subject of the  
38 offense, equipment, gears and vessels. The TPAMB shall also impose

1 administrative fine ranging from Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) to  
2 One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00); and confiscation and forfeiture of the  
3 resources subject of the offense, equipment, gears and vessels.

4  
5 **SECTION 26. *Introduction of Exotic Species.*** It shall be unlawful to  
6 introduce exotic species of plants or animals into the TRNP.

7  
8 Violation of this Section shall be punished with imprisonment of six (6)  
9 months to six (6) years; fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) to  
10 One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00); and forfeiture of forfeiture of the resources  
11 subject of the offense, equipment, gears and vessels. The TPAMB shall also  
12 impose administrative fine ranging from Two Hundred Thousand Pesos  
13 (P200,000.00) to One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00); and confiscation and  
14 forfeiture of the resources subject of the offense, equipment, gears and vessels.

15  
16 **SECTION 27. *Hunting, catching, fishing, killing, taking, gathering,***  
17 ***removing, destroying, disturbing, or possessing resources.*** It shall be  
18 unlawful for any person to actually or attempt to hunt, catch, fish, kill, take,  
19 gather, remove, destroy, disturb, or possess any resource, whether living or non-  
20 living, or products derived therefrom. The unauthorized entry of a vessel in the  
21 TRNP shall be *prima facie* evidence of violation of this Section.

22 Violations of this Section shall be punished as follows:

23 (1) Where the offender uses explosives, noxious or poisonous  
24 substances, the penalty shall be imprisonment ranging from six (6) years and  
25 one day to twelve (12) years without prejudice to the filing of separate criminal  
26 cases when the use of the same result to physical injury or loss of human life;  
27 fine ranging from One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) to Three  
28 Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00); forfeiture of the resources subject of  
29 the offense, equipment, gears and vessels. The TPAMB shall also impose  
30 administrative fine ranging from Forty Thousand Pesos (P40,000.00) to One  
31 Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P150,000.00); and confiscation and forfeiture of  
32 the resources subject of the offense, equipment, gears and vessels.

33  
34 The discovery of dynamite, other explosives and chemical compounds  
35 which contain combustible elements, or noxious or poisonous substances, in any  
36 vessel or in the possession of any person within the TRNP shall constitute *prima*  
37 *facie* evidence that the same was used in violation of this Act. The discovery of  
38 resources caught, taken, killed, removed, gathered or destroyed with the use of

1 explosives, noxious or poisonous substances in any vessel or in the possession  
2 of any person within the TRNP shall constitute *prima facie* evidence of violation  
3 of this Act.

4  
5 (2) Where the offender merely possesses explosive, noxious or  
6 poisonous substances, within the TRNP, the punishment shall be imprisonment  
7 ranging from four (4) years and two months and one day to six (6) years; fine  
8 ranging from Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) to One Hundred Thousand  
9 Pesos (P100,000.00); forfeiture of fish catch, fishing equipment and vessels.  
10 The TPAMB shall also impose administrative fine ranging from Forty Thousand  
11 Pesos (P40,000.00) to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P150,000.00); and  
12 confiscation and forfeiture of the resources subject of the offense, equipment,  
13 gears and vessels.

14  
15 (3) Where the offender takes, removes, fishes, gathers, kills, destroys  
16 or possesses corals, except for scientific or research purposes authorized by the  
17 TPAMB, the penalty shall be imprisonment ranging from six (6) years and one  
18 day to twelve (12) years; fine ranging from Twenty Thousand Pesos  
19 (P20,000.00) to Eighty Thousand Pesos (P80,000.00); forfeiture of the corals,  
20 equipment, gears and vessels. The TPAMB shall also impose administrative fine  
21 ranging from Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) to One Hundred Thousand  
22 Pesos (P100,000.00); and confiscation and forfeiture of the corals subject of the  
23 offense, equipment, gears and vessels.

24  
25 (4) Where the offender uses any fishing gear or method that destroys  
26 coral reefs, seagrass beds, or other marine life habitats as may be determined by  
27 this Act, the TPAMB, other laws, the Department of Agriculture, or the DENR, the  
28 operator, boat captain, master fisherman, and recruiter or organizer of  
29 fishworkers involved shall suffer a penalty of six (6) years and one day to twelve  
30 (12) years imprisonment; fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos  
31 (P100,000.00) to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00); forfeiture of  
32 catch, fishing equipment, gears and vessels. The TMB shall also impose  
33 administrative fine ranging from Four Hundred Thousand Pesos (P400,000.00) to  
34 One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00); and confiscation and forfeiture of catch,  
35 fishing equipment, gears and vessels.

36  
37 Muro-Ami, pa-aling, all kinds of trawls (*galadgad, Norway*), purse seine  
38 (*pangulong*), Danish seine (*hulbot-hulbot, pahulbot-hulbot, likisan, liba-liba,*

1 *palisot, patangko, bira-bira, buli-buli, hulahoop, zipper, lampornas, etc.*), ring net  
2 (*kubkob, pangulong, kalansisi*), drive-in net (*kayakas*), round haul seine (*sapyaw,*  
3 *lawag*), motorized push net (*sudsod*), bagnet (*basnig, saklit*), or any of their  
4 variations, are hereby declared destructive fishing methods or gears under this  
5 provision.

6  
7 (5) Where the offender gathers or removes pebbles, stones, rocks,  
8 sand or other materials or otherwise engages in the quarrying or dredging of any  
9 portion of the TRNP, the penalty shall be six (6) years and one day to twelve (12)  
10 years imprisonment; fine of not less than Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) to  
11 Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (500,000.00); and forfeiture of the substance  
12 taken from the habitat, and the equipment and vessels used to commit such  
13 violation. The TPAMB shall also impose administrative fines ranging from Thirty  
14 Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) to Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos  
15 (P700,000.00); and confiscation and forfeiture of the substance taken, and  
16 equipment and vessels used in the commission of the violation

17  
18 (6) Where the subject of the offense are protected species as defined  
19 in this Act, the penalty shall be imprisonment of twelve (12) years to twenty (20)  
20 years; fine of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Pesos (120,000.00) to One Million  
21 Pesos (P1,000,000.00) for every threatened or endangered organism subject of  
22 the offense; forfeiture of the catch, equipment, gears and vessels; and  
23 cancellation of fishing permit. The TPAMB shall also impose administrative fine  
24 ranging from One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P150,000.00) to One Million  
25 Pesos (P1,000,000.00) for every threatened or endangered organism subject of  
26 the offense; and confiscation and forfeiture of catch, equipment, gears and  
27 vessels.

28  
29 (7) Where the violations of this Section are not covered by the preceding  
30 paragraphs, the penalty shall be imprisonment of one (1) year to three (3) years;  
31 fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000) but not more than One  
32 Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000); and forfeiture of the catch, equipment,  
33 gears and vessels; and cancellation of permit that makes it possible for the  
34 offender to commit the offense. The TPAMB shall also impose administrative  
35 fine ranging from Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00) to One Million Pesos  
36 (P1,000,000.00); and confiscation and forfeiture of catch, equipment, gears and  
37 vessels.

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**SECTION 28. *Poaching by Foreigners.*** It shall be unlawful for any foreign person, corporation or entity to fish or operate any fishing vessel in the TRNP. The entry of any foreign fishing vessel in the TRNP shall constitute *prima facie* evidence that the vessel is engaged in fishing in the area. The presence of any foreign national in a fishing vessel of either Philippine or foreign registry in TRNP shall be *prima facie* evidence that the vessel is engaged in fishing in the Park.

Violation of the above shall be punished by imprisonment of six years and one day to twelve years (12) years and a fine of One Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars (US\$100,000.00), in addition to the forfeiture of its catch, fishing equipment and fishing vessel: *Provided*, That in case of non-payment of fine, subsidiary imprisonment shall be imposed: *Provided*, further that the TPAMB is empowered to impose an administrative fine of not less than Fifty Thousand U.S. Dollars (US\$50,000.00), but not more than Two Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollar (US\$200,000.00) or its equivalent in Philippine Currency, in addition to the confiscation and forfeiture of the fish catch, fishing equipment and fishing vessel: *Provided*, finally, that a bond may be posted for the vessels which shall not be less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (US\$100,000.00).

A Hold Departure Order shall be issued as a condition for the grant of bail to any foreign offender. All passports and documents which may be used by the accused to flee the country must be surrendered to the court.

**SECTION 29. *Violation of Environmental Impact Assessment System.*** The TPAMB shall prosecute violations of laws and rules on Environmental Impact Assessment System. Such violations shall be punished by imprisonment of three (3) years to five (5) years; fine of One Hundred Thousand (P100,000.00) for every day each violation subsists; rehabilitation of the affected area or the amount equivalent thereto; and forfeiture of the vessels, structures, effects, materials and equipment used, and the products of such violation. If the offender is a corporation, the directors and officers shall suffer the imprisonment. The TPAMB shall also impose administrative fine of One Hundred Thousand (P100,000.00) for every day each violation subsists; rehabilitation of the affected area or the amount equivalent thereto; and confiscation and forfeiture of the vessels, structures, effects, materials and equipment used, and the products of such violation.

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**SECTION 30. *Violation of Standards.*** The owner, operator and top three (3) officers of any vessel violating the standards set by the TPAMB, such as, but not limited to, safety and sanitation standards, shall suffer administrative penalty of fine ranging from Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) to Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) for every day each violation subsists, and from suspension of three (3) months to cancellation of permit to operate in TRNP.

**SECTION 31. *Obstruction to Law Enforcement Officer.*** The boat owner, master, operator, officer, or any person acting on his/her behalf, of any vessel who evades, obstructs or hinders any law enforcement officer in the TRNP to perform his/her duty, shall be administratively fined Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00). In addition, the registration, permit and/or license of the vessel including the license of the officers thereof shall be canceled.

**SECTION 32. *Promulgation of Rules and Regulations.*** The TPAMB may issue rules and regulations, including the imposition of penalties, in pursuit of the conservation, preservation, management and sustainable use of the TRNP.

**SECTION 33. *Subsidiary Imprisonment.*** - Non-payment of fines imposed under this Act shall be subject to subsidiary imprisonment as provided for by existing laws.

**SECTION 34. *Fines and Forfeitures.*** All administrative fines and forfeitures that may be imposed by the TPAMB under this Act, and the rules and regulations that may be promulgated in pursuit of the goals and objectives of this Act shall form part of the funds and assets of TRNP.

In case of administrative confiscation or forfeiture of vessels, structures, effects, materials and equipment and the same is not necessary for the proper prosecution of the offense charged, the TPAMB may sell the forfeited vessels, structures, effects, materials and equipment in a public auction. Proceeds of the said sale shall accrue to the TRNP created under this Act.

In case the confiscated vessels, structures, effects, materials and equipment are in *custodia legis*, the TPAMB or its counsel, after proper proceedings may move for the sale of the confiscated or forfeited vessels,

1 structures, effects, materials and equipment *pendente lite*; *Provided that* the said  
2 vessels, structures, effects, materials and equipment is no longer necessary for  
3 the proper prosecution of the offense or if the same is necessary but substitute  
4 evidence is accepted by the court. The proceeds of the said sale shall likewise  
5 accrue to the TRNP Fund created under this Act.

6  
7 **SECTION 35. *Violation of Other Laws*** – Prosecution for violation of this  
8 Act shall be without prejudice to the prosecution of the offender for violation of  
9 other laws, rule and regulations.

10  
11 **SECTION 36. *Who Shall Enforce this Act, Other Laws, Rules and***  
12 ***Regulations Within TRNP.*** The Armed Forces of the Philippines through the  
13 Philippine Navy, the Philippine National Police, the Philippine Coast Guard, the  
14 law enforcement officers of the DENR and DA-BFAR, PCSD officials and staff,  
15 LGU officials, law enforcement officers of LGUs, members and officers of the  
16 TPAMB, the PaSu and his/her staff, and other deputized environment and natural  
17 resource officers, are hereby authorized and shall cooperate in the enforcement  
18 of this Act, other laws, rules and regulations within the TRNP.

19  
20 Any one of the above persons and entities is authorized to file  
21 administrative cases before the proper agencies and bodies, or initiate criminal  
22 proceedings in accordance with the Rules of Court, for offenses committed within  
23 the TRNP.

24  
25 **SECTION 37. *Inspection Powers.*** The PaSu and his/her authorized  
26 representative shall have the power to stop, board, search and inspect all  
27 vessels within the TRNP for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Act,  
28 other laws, rules and regulations.

29  
30 **SECTION 38. *Special Prosecutors and Counsels.*** The Department of  
31 Justice, upon recommendation of the TPAMB, shall designate special  
32 prosecutors from among state and public prosecutors to do preliminary  
33 investigation and prosecute violations of this Act, other laws, rules and  
34 regulations within the TRNP. Such special prosecutors shall coordinate with the  
35 TPAMB and the TMO in the performance of his/her duties and assist in the  
36 training of wardens and rangers in arrest and criminal procedure. The TPAMB  
37 shall periodically submit an evaluation of the performance of the designated  
38 special prosecutors to the DOJ.



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The TPAMB may retain the services of a competent lawyer to prosecute and/or assist in the prosecution of cases under the direct control and supervision of the *regular or special* prosecutor and to defend the members of the TPAMB, the PaSu and TMO staff, or person assisting in the protection, conservation and sustainable development of the TRNP, against any legal action related to their powers, functions and responsibilities as provided in this Act or as delegated or tasked by the TPAMB.

**SECTION 39. *Citizens Suits.*** For the purposes of enforcing the provisions of this Act or its implementing rules and regulations, any citizen may file an appropriate civil, criminal or administrative action in the proper courts/bodies against:

(a) Any person who violates or fails to comply with the provisions of this Act its implementing rules and regulations; or

(b) Those mandated to implement and enforce the provisions of this Act with respect to orders, rules and regulations issued inconsistent with this Act; and/or

(c) Any public officer who willfully or grossly neglects the performance of an act specifically enjoined as a duty by this Act or its implementing rules and regulations; or abuses his authority in the performance of his duty; or, in any many improperly performs his duties under this Act or its implementing rules and regulations; *Provided, however, That,* no suit can be filed until after thirty-day (30) notice has been given to the public officer and the alleged violator concerned and no appropriate action has been taken thereon.

The Court shall exempt such action from the payment of filing fees and statements likewise, upon *prima facie* showing of the non-enforcement or violation complained of, exempt the plaintiff from the filing of an injunction bond for the issuance of preliminary injunction.

In the event that the citizen should prevail, the Court shall award reasonable attorney's fees, moral damages and litigation costs as appropriate.

1           **SECTION 40. *Suits and Strategic Legal Action Against Public***  
2 ***Participation (SLAPP) and the Enforcement of this Act.*** Where a suit is  
3 brought against a person who filed an action as provided in Section 39 of this  
4 Act, or against any person, institution or government agency that implements this  
5 Act, it shall be the duty of the investigating prosecutor or the Court, as the case  
6 may be, to immediately make a determination not exceeding thirty (30) days  
7 whether said legal action has been filed to harass, vex, exert undue pressure or  
8 , stifle such legal recourses of the person complaining of or enforcing the  
9 provisions of this Act. Upon determination thereof, evidence warranting the  
10 same, the investigating prosecutor or the Court, as the case may be, shall  
11 dismiss the complaint. In addition, the Court shall award the attorney's fees and  
12 double damages.

13  
14           This provision shall also apply and benefit public officers who are sued for  
15 acts committed in their official capacity, there being no grave abuse of authority,  
16 and done in the course of enforcing this Act.

17  
18           **SECTION 41. *Convening the TPAMB.*** Within one (1) month upon  
19 effectivity of this Act, the interim TPAMB shall convene to ensure that its  
20 composition and structure conform with the provisions of this Act.

21  
22           **SECTION 42. *Continuation of the TMO.*** The present Tubbataha  
23 Management Office (TMO) shall continue to exist and function as such, subject  
24 to reorganization, if necessary, in accordance with Section 14 hereof.

25  
26           **SECTION 43. *Continuation of all Other Arrangements.*** Except when  
27 otherwise provided by this Act, all arrangements, commitments and agreements  
28 pertaining to the management, utilization, conservation and protection of the  
29 TRNP made and entered into by government agencies, the present TPAMB and  
30 the TMO, and the active involvement of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine  
31 Coast Guard in law enforcement in TRNP, shall continue to subsist until validly  
32 amended, revised, repealed or renewed.

33  
34           **SECTION 44. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within six (6)  
35 months upon the effectivity of this Act, the TPAMB shall prepare the  
36 Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

37

1           **SECTION 45. Appropriations.** The DENR and the PCSD shall  
2 immediately include in the Department's and Council's program the  
3 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual  
4 General Appropriations Act.

5  
6           **SECTION 46. Construction and Suppletory Application of Existing**  
7 **Laws.** The provisions of this Act shall be construed liberally in favor of achieving  
8 biodiversity conservation, protection and sustainable development. Provisions of  
9 Republic Act No. 7611, otherwise known as the Strategic Environmental Plan  
10 (SEP) for Palawan Act, Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the National  
11 Integrated Protected Areas System Act, and Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise  
12 known as The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, Republic Act No. 9147,  
13 otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation Act, and existing  
14 forestry laws, and their corresponding rules and regulations not inconsistent  
15 hereto shall have suppletory effect in the implementation of this Act.

16  
17           **SECTION 47. Separability Clause.** If any part or section of this Act is  
18 declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such declaration shall not affect  
19 the other parts or sections hereof.

20  
21           **SECTION 48. Repealing Clause.** All laws, presidential decrees,  
22 executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed  
23 repealed or modified accordingly.

24  
25           **SECTION 49. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect immediately after its  
26 complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

27  
28           Approved.