

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7689
(In Substitution of House Bill 632)

Introduced by: Representative Loren B. Legarda

AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO ENCOURAGE THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE, AND THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION, OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES THEREIN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 as the “*Northern Antique*
2 *Protected Seascape and Landscape Act.*”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State is mandated to promote a tourism
4 industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally
5 sensitive, economically viable, and equitable for the local community. Towards this
6 end, the Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape (NAPSL) located in the
7 municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao in the Province of
8 Antique, is hereby declared as an ecotourism zone, where the responsible and
9 sustainable use of the natural resources therein shall be encouraged and strictly
10 implemented.

11 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** - Pursuant to the above declaration of policy, the State shall
12 endeavor to accomplish the following:

- 1 (a) Develop and promote responsible, community-based ecological tourism as the
2 core management strategy in the development of the NAPSL;
- 3 (b) Ensure the conservation of the biodiversity and the preservation of the said
4 ecotourism site;
- 5 (c) Develop ecotourism products and programs that will generate employment and
6 livelihood for the local residents concerned, consistent with the preservation and
7 maintenance of the natural resources;
- 8 (d) Guarantee that the financial and economic benefits of the tourism industry are
9 equitably shared by and distributed among the local residents concerned by giving
10 preferential attention and support to community- and home-based tourism
11 enterprises, such as resorts and home stays, micro and small businesses including
12 restaurants, food and fruit stands, and other similar tourism-oriented industries and
13 businesses;
- 14 (e) Ensure the proper and adequate training of local tour operators and tour guides,
15 non-government organizations (NGOs), concerned local government units
16 (LGUs), and the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Department of Environment
17 and Natural Resources (DENR), which shall be responsible for providing tourists
18 and visitors with educational and enriching activities, tour programs and
19 experiences; and
- 20 (f) Guarantee that in the development and promotion of the local tourism industry, the
21 concerned LGUs shall ensure that the needs of local residents for adequate water
22 supply, food, energy, transportation and local construction materials are first
23 secured and met.

24 **SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

- 1 (a) *Buffer Zone* refers to an identified area outside the boundaries of and
2 immediately adjacent to the NAPSL that need special development control in
3 order to avoid or minimize any threat or harm to the NAPSL;
- 4 (b) *Community-Based Ecotourism* refers to a form of tourism where the local
5 community and its residents have substantial control and involvement in the
6 development and management of the local tourism industry and a greater portion
7 of the economic gains remain within the community;
- 8 (c) *Ecotourism* refers to a form of sustainable tourism within a natural area where
9 community participation, protection and management of natural resources,
10 cultural and indigenous knowledge and practices, environmental education and
11 ethics, as well as economic benefits are fostered and pursued for the enrichment
12 of host communities and the satisfaction of the visitors; and,
- 13 (d) *Responsible Ecotourism* refers to a form of sustainable tourism in which both the
14 tourism sector and the tourists take responsibility in the protection, respect, and
15 conservation of the natural environment and the local culture and ways of life,
16 and where community participation as well as economic benefits are fostered and
17 pursued for the well-being of the local people and visitors.

18 **SEC. 5. *Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape.***— The Northern
19 Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape located in the municipalities of Libertad,
20 Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao in the Province of Antique is hereby declared a
21 responsible, community-based ecotourism zone. It shall be accorded priority development by
22 the DOT, DENR, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Tourism
23 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), subject to the rules and regulations
24 governing the development of ecotourism zones as provided in the national ecotourism strategy
25 jointly adopted and implemented by the DENR and DOT.

1 **SEC. 6. Scope and Coverage.** – The NAPSL, which shall cover an area of
2 364,453.5395 hectares, shall be composed of the following:

- 3 a) The wetland area located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan, Antique composed of
4 mangrove forest and estuarine river ecosystem with an area of 21,095 hectares,
5 located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan Antique;
- 6 b) The seas, islet and sandbar ecosystem covering the municipalities of Libertad,
7 Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao with an area of 213,556.26 hectares; and,
- 8 c) The Pandan Bay with an area of 150,876.25 hectares.

9 The corresponding boundaries shall be as follows:

10 **A. The wetland area**

11 The wetland area pertains to the area beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21'
12 W, 27,787.09 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Protected
13 Seascape and Landscape;

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 14 | thence S 75° 30' E | 3,242.00 | meters to corner 2; |
| 15 | thence N 81° 34' E | 3,723.95 | meters to corner 3 |
| 16 | thence S 88° 11' E | 4,292.00 | meters to corner 4 |
| 17 | thence S 70° 26' E | 7,759.31 | meters to corner 5 |
| 18 | thence S 83° 19' E | 3,489.57 | meters to corner 6 |
| 19 | thence N 78° 36' E | 2,873.78 | meters to corner 7 |
| 20 | thence S 40° 19' E | 4,925.65 | meters to corner 8 |
| 21 | thence S 05° 55' W | 14,342.35 | meters to corner 9 |
| 22 | thence S 12° 57' W | 4,208.77 | meters to corner 10 |
| 23 | thence S 20° 40' W | 8,176.30 | meters to corner 11 |
| 24 | thence S 26° 28' E | 2,100.83 | meters to corner 12 |
| 25 | thence S 15° 07' W | 3,828.16 | meters to corner 13 |

1	thence S 14° 11' E	4,552.10	meters to corner 14
2	thence S 07° 49' W	2,472.18	meters to corner 15
3	thence N 89° 51' W	17,369.06	meters to corner 16
4	thence S 19° 13' W	3,169.16	meters to corner 17
5	thence S 47° 56' W	18,926.52	meters to corner 18
6	thence S 61° 51' W	6,834.81	meters to corner 19
7	thence S 88° 08' W	6,837.37	meters to corner 20
8	thence N 65° 37' W	6,817.66	meters to corner 21
9	thence N 40° 46' W	6,141.86	meters to corner 22
10	thence N 16° 52' W	6,841.57	meters to corner 23
11	thence N 09° 23' E	6,833.87	meters to corner 24
12	thence N 03° 19' E	32,126.72	meters to corner 25
13	thence N 31° 53' E	4,886.87	meters to corner 26
14	thence N 50° 38' E	3,792.90	meters to corner 27
15	thence N 66° 15' E	6,070.27	meters to corner 28
16	thence N 83° 30' E	20,309.49	meters to corner 1,

17 comprising an area of two hundred ninety-nine thousand nine hundred forty two and
18 542/100 (299,942.542) hectares, more or less.

19 **B. Seas, Islets and Sandbar Ecosystem**

20 The sea, islets and sandbar ecosystem pertains to the area beginning at point marked
21 TP - 1, being S 86° 08' W, 33,925.26 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107,
22 Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape,

23	thence S 44° 36' W	14,735.43	meters to corner 2;
24	thence S 30° 12' E	1,957.43	meters to corner 3;
25	thence S 57° 20' E	24,725.84	meters to corner 4;
26	thence N 81° 25' E	4,111.89	meters to corner 5;

1 thence S 52° 51' E 11,911.68 meters to corner 6;
2 thence N 84° 22' E 3,904.27 meters to corner 7;
3 thence S 14° 11' E 4,552.10 meters to corner 8;
4 thence S 07° 49' W 2,472.18 meters to corner 9;
5 thence N 89° 51' W 17,369.06 meters to corner 10;
6 thence S 19° 13' W 3,169.16 meters to corner 11;
7 thence S 47° 56' W 18,926.52 meters to corner 12;
8 thence S 61° 51' W 6,834.81 meters to corner 13;
9 thence S 88° 08' W 6,837.37 meters to corner 14;
10 thence N 65° 37' W 6,817.66 meters to corner 15;
11 thence N 35° 22' W 6,930.04 meters to corner 16;
12 thence N 19° 42' W 5,891.75 meters to corner 17;
13 thence N 09° 23' E 6,833.87 meters to corner 18;
14 thence N 03° 19' E 32,126.72 meters to corner 19;
15 thence N 31° 53' E 4,886.87 meters to corner 20;
16 thence N 50° 38' E 3,792.90 meters to corner 21;
17 thence N 66° 15' E 6,070.27 meters to corner 22;
18 thence N 88° 45' E 5,636.26 meters to corner 23;
19 thence S 62° 17' E 9,225.27 meters to corner 1,

20 comprising an area of one hundred eighty-six thousand forty two hundred and 676/100
21 (186,042.676) hectares, more or less.

22 **C. Pandan Bay**

23 Pandan Bay pertains to the area beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21' W,
24 27,787.09 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Protected
25 Seascape and Landscape,

26 thence S 75° 30' E 3,242.00 meters to corner 2;

1	thence	N 81° 34' E	3,723.95	meters to corner 3;
2	thence	S 88° 11' E	4,292.00	meters to corner 4;
3	thence	S 70° 26' E	7,759.31	meters to corner 5;
4	thence	S 83° 19' E	3,489.57	meters to corner 6;
5	thence	N 78° 36' E	2,873.78	meters to corner 7;
6	thence	S 40° 19' E	4,925.65	meters to corner 8;
7	thence	S 05° 55' W	14,342.35	meters to corner 9;
8	thence	S 12° 57' W	4,208.77	meters to corner 10;
9	thence	S 20° 40' W	8,176.30	meters to corner 11;
10	thence	S 26° 28' E	2,100.83	meters to corner 12;
11	thence	S 15° 07' W	3,828.16	meters to corner 13;
12	thence	S 84° 22' W	3,904.27	meters to corner 14;
13	thence	N 52° 51' W	11,911.68	meters to corner 15;
14	thence	S 81° 25' W	4,111.89	meters to corner 16;
15	thence	N 57° 20' W	24,725.84	meters to corner 17;
16	thence	N 30° 12' W	1,957.43	meters to corner 18;
17	thence	N 44° 36' E	23,817.36	meters to corner 1,

18 comprising an area of one hundred nine thousand sixty seven hundred and 405/100
19 (109,067.405) hectares, more or less.

20 The metes and bounds of NAPSL shall be indicated on maps and nautical charts. Any
21 modification of the coverage of this Act due to such factors as changing ecological situation,
22 new scientific or archaeological findings, or discovery of traditional boundaries not
23 previously taken into account shall be made through an act of Congress, after consultation
24 with the concerned government agencies.

25 **SEC. 7. Establishment of Buffer Zones.** – There shall also be established buffer zones

1 surrounding the NAPSL for the purpose of providing extra protection around the area, where
2 restrictions shall apply and communities can assist in repelling threats to the NAPSL. Such
3 buffer zones shall be managed according to the ecotourism and management plan formulated
4 pursuant to this Act.

5 Such buffer zones shall be included in the ecotourism development and management
6 plan of the NASPL: *Provided*, That no build up in, or reclamation of, any part of the
7 designated buffer zone that is detrimental to the biodiversity in the NASPL shall be made.
8 The Council shall exercise its authority over the designated buffer zone.

9 **SEC. 8. *Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism***
10 *Development and Management Plan.* – The DENR and the DOT, in coordination with the
11 DPWH and TIEZA, shall jointly assist the Northern Antique Protected Seascape and
12 Landscape Protected Area Management Board herein created in the formulation of the
13 ecotourism development and management plan for the NAPSL that shall be complemented
14 by a set of guidelines to promote responsible, community-based ecotourism. The tourism
15 development and management plan shall ensure the preservation of the seascapes and
16 landscapes within the NAPSL and shall include the following components:

- 17 (a) Carrying capacity of the seascapes and landscapes and its endemic and migratory
18 birds species;
- 19 (b) Specific site assessment, including terrestrial, underwater (biotic and abiotic),
20 oceanographic and other scientific site assessment;
- 21 (c) Identification of strategic priorities;
- 22 (d) Product development for local income generation;
- 23 (e) Capacity building for the local community to allow residents therein to ably
24 manage economically viable and responsible, community-based ecotourism
25 business enterprises;

- 1 (f) Support for the formulation of local groups and networks, including the marketing
2 and pricing of products;
- 3 (g) Marketing strategies that reflect the natural, social and environmental integrity of
4 the NAPSL;
- 5 (h) Regular water quality monitoring of the sea water that surround the protected
6 seascape and landscape;
- 7 (i) Management and maintenance of the mangrove areas; and
- 8 (j) Proper solid waste management in accordance with Republic Act No. 9003; or the
9 “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act;” and
- 10 (k) Proper use, protection, preservation and revival of water resources and
11 implementation of a proper sewerage system in accordance with Republic Act No.
12 9275, or the “Clean Water Act;”

13 The process of developing the ecotourism development and management plan for the
14 NAPSL shall be participatory, from the bottom up, with the framework to be provided by the
15 DOT and DENR in consultation with the Northern Antique Protected Seascape and
16 Landscape Protected Area Management Board herein created.

17 In order to protect the mangroves and forests in NAPSL, the foreshore areas shall not
18 be leased to any private entity: *Provided*, That Special Agreements on Protected Area
19 (SAPA) as defined under Republic Act No. 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas
20 System Act of 1992, may be availed of, which shall be implemented upon the issuance of a
21 Protected Area and Management Board (PAMB) Clearance.

22 **SEC. 9. Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Protected**
23 **Area Management Board.** – There shall be created a multi-sectoral board, to be known as
24 the “Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Protected Area Management
25 Board”; hereinafter referred to as the Board. It shall be composed of the following members:

- 1 (a) Mayors of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao who
2 shall take turns serving as Chairperson;
- 3 (b) Heads of the Municipal Tourism Offices of the municipalities of Libertad,
4 Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao who shall take turns serving as Vice-
5 chairperson;
- 6 (c) Heads of the Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Office of the
7 municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao who shall take turns
8 serving as member;
- 9 (d) Presidents of the Association of Barangay Chairpersons (ABC) of the
10 municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao who shall also serve
11 alternately as member;
- 12 (e) Chairpersons of the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management
13 Councils of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao
14 who shall also serve alternately as member;
- 15 (f) Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of the
16 Province of Antique;
- 17 (g) Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB);
- 18 (h) Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
19 Authority (TIEZA);
- 20 (i) Regional Director of DOT-Region 6;
- 21 (j) Regional Director of DENR-Region 6;
- 22 (k) Regional Director of DPWH-Region 6;
- 23 (l) Representative from an academic institution, preferably from a state university
24 or college in the Province of Antique, with proven track record in or related to
25 protected seascapes and landscapes management;

1 (m) Representative from the private sector, a resident of the Province of Antique,
2 who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to protected
3 seascapes and landscapes management; and,

4 (n) Representative from either a non-government organization (NGO) or People's
5 Organization (PO), duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial
6 government of Antique. The NGO or PO represented should have been in
7 existence for at least five (5) years with a proven track record in or related to
8 seascapes and landscapes management.

9 The Mayor-member acting as Chairperson of the Board shall serve together with the
10 heads of the respective municipal tourism office, municipal environmental and natural
11 resource office, President of the ABC, and the Chairperson of the Municipal Fisheries and
12 Aquatic Resources Management Council.

13 The *ex-officio* members of the Board, by virtue of their elective or appointive
14 government positions as specified in the immediately preceding subsections (a), (b), (c), (d),
15 (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) shall serve for the duration of their respective terms of office.

16 The members of the Board specified under subsections (l), (m), and (n) of this section
17 shall be elected by the *ex-officio* members of the Board in a transparent and fair manner.
18 They shall each serve a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed for another term.

19 The members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be granted
20 actual and necessary travelling and subsistence expenses to be incurred in the performance of
21 their duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the Board or in connection with other
22 official business authorized through a Resolution of the Board, subject to existing rules and
23 regulations. The members shall represent their respective sectors with utmost fidelity and
24 accountability. The decision of each member shall be binding upon the sector that he or she
25 represents.

1 The members of the Board duly elected or appointed prior to the effectivity of this Act
2 shall continue to serve until the expiration of their term or appointment. Thereafter, members
3 of the Board shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

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

- 5 (a) More than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings of the
6 Board;
- 7 (b) Commission of acts prejudicial to the development and management of NAPSL
8 as embodied in existing rules and regulations governing NAPSL;
- 9 (c) Disassociation from the office or organization being represented;
- 10 (d) Termination of relationship with the office or organization being represented; or
- 11 (e) Conviction by final judgment of any criminal act.

12 The local government of the Province of Antique shall provide a secretariat for the
13 Board and the funding necessary to cover the expenses for the performance of its official
14 functions and activities.

15 **SEC. 10. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Northern Antique Protected***
16 ***Seascape and Landscape Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).*** – The PAMB
17 shall be responsible for the following:

- 18 (a) Implementation of the ecotourism development and management plan in
19 consultation with the local residents, businesses, and other stakeholders;
- 20 (b) Assessment and evaluation of the potential impact of the development plan on
21 environmental safety including the biodiversity in the seascapes and
22 landscapes, and the safety and wellbeing of communities and enterprises
23 located within the NAPSL;
- 24 (c) Provision of technical and financial assistance to the communities within the
25 seascapes and landscapes;

- 1 (d) Implementation of a monitoring plan to ensure the well-being of water birds and
2 the preservation of their habitats;
- 3 (e) Formulation of rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance and
4 security of the ecotourism areas; and
- 5 (f) Performance of other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives
6 of this Act.

7 **SEC. 11. *Formulation of Guidelines and Standards.*** – The DENR and DOT
8 shall assist the PAMB in the formulation of local ecotourism standards that shall integrate
9 environmental protection in the development and management of ecotourism plans.

10 The guidelines and standards shall:

- 11 (a) Promote the observance of best practices in environmental preservation through
12 capacity-building activities;
- 13 (b) Ensure optimal use of water and energy;
- 14 (c) Promote waste and pollution reduction through the encouragement of recycling
15 and other environmentally-sound waste management reduction and disposal
16 schemes;
- 17 (d) Include security enforcement measures to prevent crime and vandalism within the
18 eco-park; and
- 19 (e) Encourage the use of local produce and services, and support the
20 employment of local people.

21 **SEC. 12. *Coordination with National Agencies.*** - The DENR and the DOT
22 shall closely coordinate with the PAMB, as well as the relevant regional offices of the
23 DPWH, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of
24 Transportation (DOTr), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of
25 Education (DepEd), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of the
26 Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP),

1 Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and other line agencies of the government
2 in the implementation of this Act.

3 **SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within thirty (30) days
4 from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR and the DOT, in consultation with
5 the PAMB, other concerned government agencies, and stakeholders, shall
6 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper and effective
7 implementation of this Act.

8 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** — The Secretaries of the DENR, DOT and DPWH and
9 the Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
10 Authority (TIEZA) shall include in their respective programs the implementation
11 of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
12 Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

13 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** — If, for any reason, any provision of this
14 Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are
15 not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

16 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamation
17 and administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby
18 repealed or modified accordingly.

19 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,