

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



23 AUG -8 P1:54

SENATE

S. No. 2397

RECEIVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jinggoy Estrada", written over a horizontal line.

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

AN ACT
ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE HOLISTIC AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS AND THE RESOURCES THEREIN, ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT ACTION PLAN, OTHER SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is an archipelago with 7,641 islands and has one of the world's longest coastlines at more than 36,000 kilometers. Around 50% of the country's municipalities and cities are located along the coast, and 80% of the provinces have coastal domains. Needless to say, most Filipino communities depend on the coastal and marine resources for their basic needs and livelihood.


This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize a holistic approach to managing resources and protecting the health of our coastal ecosystems. The policy was first introduced in 2006 through the issuance of Executive Order No. 533 which adopted the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) as a national strategy to ensure the sustainable development of the country's coastal and marine environment. EO 533 recognized the complexities of the environmental issues, inter-connectedness of the agency mandates, and the variety of sectors benefitting from the coastal and marine resources.

ICM has been proven effective in many jurisdictions in attaining socio-economic goals of food security, water supply administration, employment generation, poverty alleviation, among others.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Offshore Coastal Mining and Quarrying, and Coastal Construction are among the top industries with the highest recorded growths in the ocean economy¹. It is imperative that a comprehensive and inter-disciplinary framework embodied under a national legislation be put in place to preserve the ecological integrity and ensure the sustainable use of our coastal assets for the enjoyment of future generations.

Finally, the ICM Act is included in the priority legislative agenda under the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 to accelerate climate action and strengthen disaster resilience. Under Chapter 15 of the PDP, the measure “pursues the development of an ICM Framework as a guide for local government units in building the resiliency of coastal communities to climate change and other hazards².”

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

¹ “Ocean-based Industries Grew by 6.7 Percent, Accounted for 3.6 Percent of GDP in 2021.” Accessed through <https://psa.gov.ph/content/ocean-based-industries-grew-67-percent-accounted-36-percent-gdp-2021>


² Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, Chapter 15, page 365

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

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1
2
3 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Integrated Coastal*
4 *Management Act*”.

5 Sec. 2. *Policy Statement.* – It shall be the policy of the State to ensure the
6 sustainable management of the country’s coastal and marine environment and
7 resources by looking at the interconnectivity of ecosystems from the watersheds to
8 the coastal and marine areas. Towards this end, it shall adopt Integrated Coastal
9 Management as a framework in regulating different human activities, restoring or
10 rehabilitating ecosystems, and ensuring a multi-stakeholder participation and ridge-
11 to-reef approach to ecosystem management, with due consideration to ecological
12 connectivity and their impact on social and ecological systems. The framework shall
13 support the country’s achievement of sustainable development, promotion of blue
14 economy, food security, just transition to sustainable livelihood, poverty alleviation

1 and its resilience and risk reduction from sea-level rise and other coastal stresses,
2 while respecting the traditional resource rights of indigenous peoples and gender
3 equality.

4 Sec. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* – Integrated Coastal Management shall be
5 implemented in all local government units (LGUs) addressing the inter-linkages
6 among ecosystems from ridge-to-reef, by all relevant government structures at the
7 national and local levels in consultation and partnership with all stakeholders through
8 participatory governance.

9 Sec. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall
10 mean:

11 a) *Adaptation* refers to the adjustment in natural or human systems in
12 response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which
13 moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities;

14 b) *Annual Investment Program (AIP)* refers to the annual slice of the Local
15 Development Investment Program (LDIP), which constitutes the total
16 resource requirements for all programs, projects, and activities consisting
17 of the annual capital expenditure and regular operating requirements of
18 the LGU;

19 c) *Beach Forest* refers to mixed association of creepers, shrubs, and trees
20 above the high tide along the coast which fall into various groups
21 morphologically based on the following forms:

22 1) Herbaceous Beach – creepers with sand-binding abilities, e.g. *Ipomoea*
23 *pes-caprae*;

24 2) Beach shrub – shrubs and low trees, e.g. *Scaevola taccada*,
25 *Dendrolobium umbellatum*;

26 3) *Casuarina equisetifolia* (Agoho) Forest – common pioneer on sandy
27 beaches;

28 4) Mixed Littoral Forest – plentiful vines, palm and trees, e.g. *Barringtonia*
29 *asiatica*, *Millettia pinnata*, and *Pandanus tectorius*.

30 d) *Biological diversity or Biodiversity* refers to the variability among living
31 organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic

1 ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This
2 includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems;

3 e) *Climate Change* refers to change of climate which is attributed directly or
4 indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of global
5 atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed
6 over comparable time periods;

7 f) *Coastal area or zone* refers to a band of dry land and adjacent ocean
8 space (water and submerged land) in which terrestrial processes and uses
9 directly affect oceanic processes and uses, and *vice versa*; its geographic
10 extent may include areas within a landmark limit of one (1) kilometer from
11 the shoreline at high tide to include mangrove swamps, brackish water
12 ponds, nipa swamps, estuarine rivers, sandy beaches, and other areas
13 within a seaward limit of 200 meters isobath to include coral reefs, algal
14 flats, seagrass beds, and other soft-bottom areas;

15 g) *Coastal greenbelts* refer to at least 100-meter-wide strip of natural or
16 planted coastal vegetation extending from the seaward edge of
17 mangroves (middle intertidal zone) towards land, or extending from the
18 seaward edge of beach forest (high tide line) towards line, in cases where
19 mangroves are absent. Its function is to absorb wave energy during
20 storms, thereby reducing wave damage, preventing coastal erosion, and
21 protecting lives and property;

22 h) *Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP)* refers to a six-year multi-sectoral
23 plan formulated at the city or municipal level embodying the vision,
24 sectoral goals, objectives, development strategies, and policies within the
25 terms of officials of the LGU, and the medium-term. It contains ecological
26 profile, sectoral development plan, and implementation instruments;

27 i) *Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)* refers to the document formulated
28 by the cities and municipalities, in consultation with its stakeholders, that
29 defines or provides guidelines on the allocation, utilization, development,
30 and management of all lands within a given territory or jurisdiction
31 according to the inherent qualities of the land itself and supportive
32 economic, demographic, socio-cultural and environmental objectives as

1 defined in Republic Act No. 11201, otherwise known as the "Department
2 of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act."

3 j) *Disaster Risk Reduction* refers to the concept and practice of reducing
4 disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal
5 factors of disasters, through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened
6 vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the
7 environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events;

8 k) *Ecosystems services* refer to the benefits people obtain from the
9 ecosystems, such as:

10 1) Provisioning which refers to the services that provide food, water,
11 timber and fiber;

12 2) Regulating which refers to the services that affect climate, floods,
13 diseases, wastes and water quality;

14 3) Cultural which refers to the services that provide recreational,
15 aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and

16 4) Supporting which refers to the essential services such as soil formation,
17 photosynthesis, nutrient cycling and carbon sequestration.

18 l) *Holistic and sustainable management* refers to the management of all
19 components of the ecosystem and the services it provides in a way and at
20 a rate that maintains and enhances its current state and resilience,
21 thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of
22 present and future generations. This approach involves all stakeholders in
23 collaborative decision-making, including scientists, national and local
24 government, private sector, local residents, and the public towards the
25 protection, conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the
26 ecosystem and the resources therein;

27 m) *Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)* refers to a holistic and integrative
28 management that incorporates the following components: (1) connectivity
29 of various ecosystems – environment and resources; (2) various sectors
30 and stakeholders; (3) institutional arrangements that are relevant; and (4)
31 assessment of drivers of coastal ecosystem degradation, management
32 planning and implementation, including research and education, to

1 address coastal degradation and biodiversity losses, and to improve the
2 well-being of communities in coastal and interconnected areas;

3 n) *Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP)* refers to the action plan
4 formulated by LGUs to address climate change concerns. It focuses on
5 both climate change adaption and mitigation and describes how LGUs plan
6 to respond to the impacts of climate change and mainstream them into
7 mandated local plans, i.e. land use plan, sectoral development plan,
8 investment program, pursuant to Republic Act No. 9729, or the "Climate
9 Change Act of 2009," as amended;

10 o) *Mangrove forest* refers to the forested wetland growing along tidal
11 mudflats and along shallow water coastal areas extending inward along
12 rivers, streams, and their tributaries where the water is generally brackish
13 and composed of low elevation species such as *Avicennia marina*, *A. alba*,
14 and *Sonneratia caseolaris*, *Xylocarpus granatum* and *Nypa fruticans* while
15 the landward zone or areas with higher elevation are inhabited by
16 *Avicennia rumphiana*, *A. officinalis*, and *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*;

17 p) *Mitigation*, in the context of climate change, refers to human intervention
18 to address anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of
19 all greenhouse gases, including ozone-depleting substances and their
20 substitutes;

21 q) *Municipal waters* refer not only to streams, lakes, inland bodies of water,
22 and tidal waters within the municipality which are not included within the
23 protected areas as defined under Republic Act No. 11038, otherwise
24 known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act
25 of 2018", public forest, timber lands, forest reserves, or fishery reserves,
26 but also marine waters included between two (2) lines drawn
27 perpendicular to the general coastline from points where the boundary
28 lines of the municipality touch the sea at low tide and a third line parallel
29 with the general coastline including offshore islands and fifteen (15)
30 kilometers from such coastline. Where two (2) municipalities are so
31 situated on opposite shores and when with less than thirty (30) kilometers

1 of marine waters between them, the third line shall be equally distant
2 from opposite shore of the respective municipalities;

3 r) *Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP)* refers to
4 the document formulated at the provincial level that merges the
5 traditionally separate Provincial Physical Framework Plan and Provincial
6 Development Plan to address the disconnect between spatial and sectoral
7 factors and between medium- and long-term concerns. It contains the
8 long-term vision of the province, and identifies development goals,
9 strategies, objectives or targets and corresponding programs, projects,
10 and activities which serve as primary inputs to provincial investment
11 programming and subsequent budgeting and plan implementation;

12 s) *State of the Coasts (SoC) reporting system* refers to an assessment tool
13 for LGUs to be used in measuring the progress and benefits of ICM
14 implementation. It allows the LGUs to document and measure the
15 effectiveness and impacts of policy and management interventions in
16 support of sustainable coastal development and evaluate progress towards
17 local, national and international targets for sustainable development;

18 t) *Watershed* refers to a land area drained by a stream or fixed body of
19 water and its tributaries having a common outlet for surface run-off. It is a
20 topographically delineated area of land from which rainwater can drain as
21 surface run-off, via a specific stream or river system to a common outlet
22 point. It encompasses ridge-to-reef areas and may include the uplands,
23 lowlands, and coastal areas;

24 u) *Wetlands* refer to a wide variety of inland habitats such as marshes,
25 peatlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as
26 saltmarshes, mangroves, intertidal mudflats, and seagrass beds; and also
27 coral reefs and other marine areas no deeper than six (6) meters at low
28 tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as dams, reservoirs, rice
29 paddies, and wastewater treatment ponds and lagoons.

1 **CHAPTER II**

2 **INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

3 *Sec. 5. National Coordinating Committee on ICM.* – There is hereby
4 established a National Coordinating Committee on ICM (NCC) to coordinate the
5 review and implementation of the National ICM Framework.

6 The NCC shall be composed of the following members:

- 7 a) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
8 (DENR) who shall act as Chairperson;
- 9 b) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) as Co-chairperson;
- 10 c) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as Vice
11 Chairperson;
- 12 d) Vice Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) as Vice
13 Chairperson;
- 14 e) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- 15 f) Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
- 16 g) Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT);
- 17 h) Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
- 18 i) Secretary of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban
19 Development (DHSUD);
- 20 j) Chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
21 Council (NDRRMC);
- 22 k) Executive Director of the National Commission on Women (NCW);
- 23 l) Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- 24 m) Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG);
- 25 n) Director of the Philippine National Police Maritime Group (PNP-MG);
- 26 o) Representative from the academe who specializes in ICM;
- 27 p) Representative from non-government organizations dealing with coastal
28 management or fisheries;
- 29 q) Representative from the private sector;
- 30 r) Representative from artisanal fisherfolk basic sector representative of the
31 National Anti-Poverty Commission;

- 1 s) Representative from the National or Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic
2 Resource Management Councils (FARMCs); and,
3 t) Representative from any other organizations not mentioned above as the
4 NCC may deem necessary.

5 The *ex-officio* members of the NCC may designate their respective permanent
6 representatives to the NCC: *Provided*, That a permanent representative may
7 designate a duly authorized representative whose rank shall in no case be lower
8 than an Undersecretary and whose acts shall be considered as that of the
9 permanent representative: *Provided, further*, That the process for designation of a
10 permanent representative shall be detailed in the implementing rules and regulations
11 of this Act: *Provided, finally*, That the authorized representative shall have no voting
12 right unless duly authorized by the permanent representative in writing.

13 The representatives from the academe, civil society, and other sectors shall
14 possess relevant work experience and training in disciplines related to climate
15 change, disaster risk reduction, natural resource management, or coastal
16 management, and shall be appointed by the NCC from a list of nominees proposed
17 by its member agencies. Each representative shall serve as a member of the NCC for
18 a period of six (6) years, subject to renewal to be decided by the majority of the
19 members of the NCC and shall perform the duties appurtenant thereto unless they
20 resign or their representation is withdrawn by the sector that they represent.
21 Appointment to any vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

22 A National Technical Working Group shall be created for the coordination of
23 the national scientific and technical matters, and to support the NCC in the
24 implementation of its powers and functions under Section 8 of this Act.

25 *Sec. 6. Meetings of the National Coordinating Committee.* – The NCC shall
26 meet once every three (3) months, or as often as may be deemed necessary.

27 *Sec. 7. Secretariat.* – The DENR shall provide a secretariat to the NCC to be
28 manned by the organic personnel of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and
29 may be augmented by the employees from member-agencies of the NCC, through
30 detail or secondment.

31 The Secretary of the DENR may also provide additional *plantilla* positions
32 subject to the evaluation and approval of the Department of Budget and

1 Management (DBM) and in compliance with the civil service laws, rules, and
2 regulations.

3 *Sec. 8. Powers and Functions of the National Coordinating Committee on ICM.*

4 – The NCC shall exercise and perform the following powers and functions:

- 5 a) Formulate, adopt, institutionalize, and amend, if necessary, the National
6 ICM Framework, in consultation with other concerned agencies, LGUs,
7 sectors, and stakeholders, within twelve (12) months from the effectivity
8 of this Act;
- 9 b) Identify and delineate, after prior consultation with the designated LGU
10 representatives, the coastal, marine, and other resources shared by two or
11 more LGUs, recommend and provide guidance on mainstreaming ICM into
12 existing local plans and programs through their respective regional or
13 provincial development councils, and assist the relevant authorities in
14 resolving conflicts arising from ICM between or among LGUs;
- 15 c) Undertake baseline and periodic assessment and reporting of the state of
16 coastal and marine environment and natural resources and the level of
17 socioeconomic development of the adjacent communities, governance or
18 management interventions, and relevant infrastructures in place, among
19 others;
- 20 d) Identify capacity building programs and activities, in coordination with the
21 DENR and the DILG, for national government, LGUs, and stakeholders,
22 and pursue information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns
23 on ICM, and develop guidelines for mainstreaming the ICM into the
24 development planning and investment programming processes of local
25 governments;
- 26 e) Develop guidelines for provinces sharing the same resources for the
27 integrated management, protection, conservation, and restoration of the
28 shared coastal and marine ecosystems, and reduce or eliminate the
29 impacts of activities originating from upstream and downstream sources
30 including government contracts and permits issued by the government
31 such as foreshore lease agreements, forest management agreements,
32 special land use permits, and mining permits;

- 1 f) Ensure documentation, promotion and dissemination of learnings and best
2 practices on ICM implementation;
- 3 g) Facilitate the establishment of integrated data and monitoring systems
4 using innovative technologies and develop a national ICM dashboard as
5 the repository of data on ICM;
- 6 h) Pursue the mobilization of sustainable financing mechanisms for ICM from
7 both public and private sectors funding institutions, among others;
- 8 i) Ensure adaptive management to consider new threats and emerging
9 issues arising from changes in the socioeconomic, technological, and
10 ecological landscape;
- 11 j) Recommend the issuance or passage of policies or legislation to the
12 appropriate agency or the legislature;
- 13 k) Ensure that the LGUs shall allocate adequate funds for the development
14 and implementation of ICM programs and plans; and
- 15 l) Create a National Technical Working Group in support of the NCC for the
16 implementation of its powers and functions.

17 All concerned national government agencies with mandates related to
18 integrated coastal management shall provide support and assistance to the NCC and
19 concerned stakeholders to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the
20 National ICM Framework and its integration in existing plans.

21 *Sec. 9. Elements of the National ICM Framework.* – The implementation of
22 ICM-responsive plans shall include the following elements in line with the ICM
23 principles:

- 24 a) Inter-agency, inter-LGU alliances, multi-sectoral mechanism to coordinate
25 the efforts of different agencies, sectors and administrative levels;
- 26 b) Peoples' participation in the formulation and implementation of the
27 National ICM Framework while upholding and respecting their right to a
28 balanced and healthful ecology, gender equality, especially those from the
29 marginalized communities, indigenous peoples; and the most vulnerable to
30 the impacts of climate change and other hazards;
- 31 c) Coastal and marine strategies including the designation, rehabilitation and
32 reforestation, or afforestation of priority coastal greenbelts and action

1 plans that provide a long-term vision and strategy for sustainable
2 development and hazard prevention of the coastal and marine areas; and
3 a fixed-term program of actions specifying responsible agencies or
4 institutions for addressing priority issues and concerns including improving
5 existing endeavors to protect marine protected areas and other protected
6 areas on or near coastal and marine zones, as defined under Republic Act
7 No. 11038;

- 8 d) Public awareness programs to increase the level of understanding and
9 appreciation of the value and benefits derived from healthy and resilient
10 coastal and marine resources and ecosystems of the area, and to promote
11 a shared responsibility among stakeholders in the planning and
12 implementation of the National ICM Framework;
- 13 e) Mainstreaming the National ICM Framework into the national and local
14 government planning and socio-economic development programs, and
15 allocation of adequate financial and human resources for its
16 implementation;
- 17 f) Capacity building programs and development of coastal and marine spatial
18 planning tools, in coordination with the Department of Information and
19 Communications Technology (DICT), to enhance required human resource
20 skills, scientific input to policy and planning processes, knowledge sharing;
21 and enforcement and monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with
22 adopted rules, regulations, and guidelines;
- 23 g) Integrated environmental and socio-economic impact monitoring for the
24 purpose of measuring, evaluating, and reporting the status, progress, and
25 impacts of management programs against established sustainable
26 development indicators and basis for decision-making, public awareness,
27 and performance evaluation;
- 28 h) Investment opportunities and sustainable financial mechanisms for
29 environmental protection and improvement; resource conservation, and
30 ecosystem-based adaptation and other nature-based solutions;

- 1 i) Disaster risk reduction and management as well as climate change
2 adaptation and mitigation programs, and vulnerability and risk
3 assessment;
- 4 j) Knowledge management, research, and development programs in such
5 areas as carrying capacity, limits to acceptable change, and enhancement
6 of the analytical and predictive value of scenarios for protecting a
7 sustainable future;
- 8 k) Development of a National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan for the protection
9 of coastal biodiversity and habitats from the effects of climate change and
10 the impacts of natural events such as typhoons, tsunamis, among others;
- 11 l) Conduct of community-based monitoring and evaluation framework and
12 development of SoC reporting system to track the progress of
13 implementation that allows results-based management, learning and
14 evidence-based decision-making;
- 15 m) Promotion of the blue economy for the improvement of livelihood and to
16 stimulate economic growth while conserving and sustainably using the
17 ocean and marine resources;
- 18 n) Designation and assessment of priority area to be declared as coastal
19 greenbelts for each coastal province, city, and municipality, to be planted
20 with mangroves and beach forests, based on vulnerability to storm surges,
21 waves, tsunami, and the like;
- 22 o) Operational plan for the reversion of all abandoned fishponds to
23 mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally
24 appropriate species; and
- 25 p) Existing legal frameworks related to coastal resource management and
26 instruments that will complement the implementation of ICM Framework.

27 The National ICM Framework shall provide direction, support and guidance to
28 the LGUs and shall adhere to the principles of sustainable development and
29 ecosystem-based management that focuses on the interconnectivity of ecosystems
30 and maintaining their health and resilience to deliver the goods and services; and
31 policy and functional integration, coordination, and adaptive management that guide

1 the ICM practice. The NCC shall finalize the National ICM Framework within twelve
2 (12) months from the effectivity of this Act.

3 Sec. 10. *Coordination of ICM Programs, Plans, and Activities at the Regional*
4 *Level.* – The ICM shall be mainstreamed into the Regional Development Plans and
5 Regional Development Investment Programs, and other relevant plans, programs
6 and projects.

7 Sec. 11. *Coordination of ICM Programs, Plans, and Activities at the Provincial*
8 *Level.* – The Provincial Development Council (PDC) established under Section 107 (c)
9 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of
10 1991”, shall be responsible for the formulation of the ICM-responsive mandated local
11 plans at the provincial level, including the coordination necessary for implementation
12 except for provinces which have already established an environmental management
13 office or the like which can formulate such plans.

14 In addition to its members, the following offices and sectors shall be
15 consulted for the purpose of facilitating the mainstreaming of ICM planning in the
16 formulation of the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan, among
17 other related documents in line with the ICM principles:

- 18 a) Chairperson of the Environment Committee of the *Sangguniang*
19 *Panlalawigan*;
- 20 b) Provincial Fisheries Office or Office of the Provincial Agriculturist or the
21 Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office;
- 22 c) Provincial Tourism Office;
- 23 d) DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer;
- 24 e) In the Province of Palawan, a representative from Palawan Council for
25 Sustainable Development (PCSD), pursuant to Republic Act No. 7611,
26 otherwise known as the “Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan
27 Act”;
- 28 f) Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), especially from the concerned district
29 command of the respective provinces in the exercise of PCG’s functions of
30 maritime safety, marine environmental protection, and maritime security
31 including the enforcement of international conventions and treaties;
- 32 g) Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA);

- 1 h) Philippine National Police Maritime Group (PNP-MG);
- 2 i) Board Member of Marine Protected Area Networks, where applicable;
- 3 j) Regional Office of DHSUD;
- 4 k) Local people's organization or indigenous community; and
- 5 l) Other stakeholders concerned.

6 In cases where two or more provinces share a common resource such as
7 bays, gulfs, river basins, lakes, watersheds, marine protected areas, marine
8 biodiversity corridors, key biodiversity areas and upland ecosystems, the
9 coordination, support and assistance for the formulation, establishment and
10 implementation of the Inter-Provincial ICM Plan shall be provided by the concerned
11 Regional Development Council established under Executive Order No. 325, series of
12 1996.

13 However, this provision shall not apply to provinces or common resources
14 shared by several LGUs which have an existing ICM coordinating mechanism at the
15 time of the effectivity of this Act.

16 *Sec. 12. Mainstreaming of ICM into Mandated Local Plans through Watershed-*
17 *level Analysis and Planning.* – Whenever feasible, the analysis and planning shall be
18 undertaken at the watershed or sub-watershed level, especially for LGUs that share
19 common resources and climate and disaster risks that cut across political
20 boundaries.

21 The ICM strategies and guidelines shall be spelled out in the national and
22 sub-national level plans through the National Physical Framework Plan (NPFP),
23 Regional Physical Framework Plan (RPFP), and Regional Development Plan (RDP).
24 With reference to the ICM Framework and the national and regional plans, the LGUs
25 shall mainstream the ICM into their mandated local plans such as CLUP and CDP in
26 the case of cities and municipalities, and the PDPFP for provinces by translating the
27 concepts, strategies, and principles outlined in the aforementioned higher-level
28 framework and plans into specific programs, projects and activities.

29 To strengthen the alignment in terms of strategic direction and harmonization
30 of programs, projects, and activities related to ICM, the LGUs shall provide a venue
31 for relevant national or regional line agencies to participate in their respective Local
32 Development Council's Sectoral Committees. They shall, likewise, be tapped to assist

1 in data gathering and validation, situational analysis, consultation meetings, and
2 identification of goals, objectives, targets, and programs, projects, and activities
3 under the CLUP, CDP, and PDPFP.

4 For monitoring purposes, LGUs shall submit an annual report on the
5 implementation of their ICM-related programs, projects, and activities to BMB of the
6 DENR.

7 *Sec. 13. Data Sharing and Technical Assistance.* – To address the LGUs’ need
8 for data access and technical assistance in the preparation of their ICM-responsive
9 plans, the following strategies shall be pursued by concerned national government
10 agencies and LGUs:

- 11 a) Data sharing agreement between the national government agencies and
12 LGUs;
- 13 b) Updating of base maps;
- 14 c) Creation of National Geospatial Database in relation to Sections 29 (d) and
15 30 of this Act; and
- 16 d) Joint technical assistance of DHSUD, DENR, and DILG during the
17 preparation of CLUP, CDP, and PDPFP.

18 *Sec. 14. Additional Functions of the Provincial Development Council.* – In
19 addition to the functions provided in Section 109 of Republic Act No, 7160, without
20 prejudice to the agreements crafted for ICM plans, the PDC shall:

- 21 a) Develop policies and guidelines for the ICM protection, conservation, and
22 restoration of the province’s coastal and marine ecosystems;
- 23 b) Coordinate the establishment and consolidation of baseline data on ICM
24 especially in relation to biodiversity;
- 25 c) Resolve conflicts arising from ICM between or among municipalities or
26 cities or between an LGU and a body managing a specially administered
27 area within the province: *Provided*, That boundary disputes between and
28 among the LGUs shall be settled in accordance with Sections 118 and 119
29 of Republic Act No. 7160 and its implementing rules and regulations;
- 30 d) Coordinate the efforts of provinces, cities, and municipalities with shared
31 coastal ecosystems and resources, to address issues that transcend their
32 political boundaries;

- 1 e) Consult cities and municipalities on the development of the provincial ICM
2 plan; and
3 f) Provide technical advisory and assistance to city and municipal LGUs in the
4 formulation of ICM programs, plans, and activities that are aligned to the
5 PDPFP, provincial ICM plan and strategy; CLUP, and CDP.

6 However, these functions may be performed by an environmental
7 management office or the like for provinces which have already established such as
8 office.

9 *Sec. 15. Coordination of ICM Programs, Plans, and Activities at the City and*
10 *Municipal Levels.* – The City or Municipal Development Council (CDC or MDC)
11 established pursuant to Section 107 (b) of Republic Act No. 7160 shall be
12 responsible for the mainstreaming and integration of national ICM elements and
13 strategies into their respective development plans, land use plans, and other
14 relevant plans, whether in the level of a highly urbanized city (HUC), independent
15 component city (ICC), component city, or municipality, including the implementation
16 and coordination necessary therefor which shall be reviewed by the NCC. In addition
17 to its members, the following offices and sectors shall be consulted or serve as
18 resource persons thereto for the purpose of coordinating the formulation and
19 implementation of the ICM-responsive local development plans:

- 20 a) Chairperson of the Environment Committee of the *Sangguniang*
21 *Panlungsod* or *Bayan*;
22 b) City or Municipal Planning and Development Office or Office of the City or
23 Municipal Planning and Development;
24 c) City or Municipal Fisheries Office or Office of the City or Municipal
25 Agriculturist;
26 d) City or Municipal Tourism Office;
27 e) DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources;
28 f) Local people’s organization or indigenous community;
29 g) Local academic institution which specializes in ICM; and
30 h) Other stakeholders concerned.

31 The Provincial Planning and Development Coordination Office shall perform
32 oversight functions to ensure the responsiveness of existing plans and policies, and

1 shall serve as the Secretariat to the local development councils, pursuant to planning
2 and development coordination functions provided under Sections 113 and 476 of
3 Republic Act No. 7160.

4 A position for a City ICM Officer or a Municipal ICM Officer may be created or
5 designated for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the ICM-
6 responsive mandated local plans such as LCCAPs, CLUP, and CDP. Each LGU may
7 allocate fund for the creation of a *plantilla* position for the ICM officer in consultation
8 with the DBM.

9 However, this provision shall not apply to cities and municipalities which have
10 an existing ICM coordinating mechanism at the time of the effectivity of this Act.

11 Sec. 16. *ICM Office.* – The Provincial Planning and Development Coordination
12 Office shall serve as the ICM Office and shall act as the Secretariat to the PDC which
13 shall serve as the overall coordinating mechanism for ICM programs, plans and
14 activities, and monitor the implementation of the provincial ICM-responsive
15 mandated local plans in consonance with the National ICM Framework.

16 Sec. 17. *Additional Functions of the City or Municipal Development Council.* –
17 In addition to the functions provided in Section 109 of Republic Act No. 7160, the
18 CDC or MDC shall:

- 19 a) Ensure that the formulation of LCCAPs, CLUPs, CDPs, and AIPs are guided
20 by the ICM principles and incorporate the elements of ICM planning and
21 shall be reviewed and approved by the appropriate government agencies
22 or committees;
- 23 b) Ensure that the rights of the indigenous cultural communities/indigenous
24 peoples shall be recognized and protected pursuant to Section 7 of
25 Republic Act No. 8371 or the “Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act of 1997”;
- 26 c) Coordinate the efforts and the implementation of ICM-responsive
27 mandated local plans among relevant barangays to address issues that
28 transcend their boundaries;
- 29 d) Coordinate the establishment and consolidation of baseline data on ICM
30 especially in relation to biodiversity and ecosystems goods and services;
31 and,

1 e) Resolve conflicts arising from ICM between or among barangays or
2 between a barangay and a specially managed or administered area within
3 the city or municipality.

4 Sec. 18. *Representation of Other Agencies and Stakeholders.* – LGUs shall
5 include the representation in their respective development councils of other national
6 agencies and stakeholder groups that may be affected by the implementation of
7 ICM. The modalities and mechanisms for this representation shall be determined by
8 the government offices mentioned in Sections 11 and 15 of this Act.

9 Sec. 19. *Assistance from LGUs and National Agencies.* – The local
10 development councils may call upon any local official or any official of national
11 agencies or offices within the LGU to assist in the formulation of ICM-responsive
12 mandated local plans.

13 In providing technical assistance and other forms of support related to coastal
14 management and the implementation of mandated local plans, national government
15 agencies shall give priority to sixth- up to third-class municipalities and other LGUs
16 with approved or existing ICM-responsive mandated local plans in accordance with
17 their economic environmental condition or requirement.

18 Sec. 20. *Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting of ICM Framework.* – The NCC
19 shall coordinate the preparation, consolidation, and submission of an initial SoC
20 Report one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act, based on a monitoring and
21 evaluation mechanism that shall be developed to track the progress of the country’s
22 ICM implementation. Every five (5) years thereafter, the NCC shall coordinate the
23 preparation, consolidation, and submission of the SoC Report to the President. This
24 report shall contain the status of implementation of the ICM-responsive mandated
25 local plans such as LCCAPs, CLUPs, and CDPs, in line with the National ICM
26 Framework. The LGU shall submit their respective progress reports on the
27 implementation of their respective ICM-responsive mandated local plans to the NCC
28 through the DENR.

29 The NCC shall regularly update their existing monitoring and assessment
30 mechanisms relevant to ICM to ensure compliance of the LGU.

1 National government agencies which are members of the NCC shall update
2 their existing monitoring and assessment mechanisms relevant to ICM to ensure
3 compliance of the LGUs.

4 Sec. 21. *ICM Best Practices.* – The National ICM Framework and local ICM-
5 responsive plans shall promote the application of best learnings which include the
6 following:

- 7 a) Coastal and marine use classification, marine spatial planning, and
8 harmonization of comprehensive land and water use plan as management
9 tools;
- 10 b) Sustainable fisheries and conservation of living resources;
- 11 c) Protection and rehabilitation of coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass,
12 estuaries, and other habitats, particularly through the establishment of
13 marine protected areas, nature reserves, and sanctuaries;
- 14 d) Development of management approaches for the conservation of upland
15 watershed, catchment areas, and river basins;
- 16 e) Integrated waste management, including sewage and solid, hazardous,
17 toxic, and other forms of pollution by major sources that affect coastal
18 areas;
- 19 f) Natural and man-made hazards management;
- 20 g) Water demand use and supply management;
- 21 h) Blue economy accounting for payment for ecosystem services and
22 equitable allocation of costs and benefits;
- 23 i) Integrated and bay wide law enforcement;
- 24 j) Disaster risk reduction and management in coastal and marine areas;
- 25 k) Climate change adaptation and mitigation in coastal and marine areas;
- 26 l) Community-led natural resource management;
- 27 m) Recognition of indigenous peoples' concerns;
- 28 n) Integrated management of port safety, health, security and environment
29 protection;
- 30 o) Involvement of the private sector or business sector as a partner in ICM;
- 31 p) Knowledge management and exchange;
- 32 q) Mobilization of sustainable financing mechanisms;

1 r) Adoption of nature-based solutions to consider threats and emerging
2 issues arising from changes in socioeconomic, technological, and
3 ecological landscape; and

4 s) Management of informal settlements situated in hazard prone areas.

5 Sec. 22. *Incentives.* – The NCC shall develop a national incentive and
6 recognition system to encourage and motivate the LGU to diligently and efficiently
7 implement; and monitor the implementation of their ICM-responsive mandated local
8 plans.

9 In addition to the criteria provided in Section 7 of Republic Act No. 11292,
10 otherwise known as “The Seal of Good Local Governance Act of 2019”, the LGU may
11 be granted the Seal of Good Local Governance if it exemplarily implemented and
12 sustained its ICM-responsive mandated local plans.

13 The details of the recognition and reward system shall be provided in the
14 implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

15 Sec. 23. *Scientific Advisory Group.* – The NCC shall establish a National
16 Scientific Advisory Group to ensure that ICM interventions have sound scientific
17 basis.

18 The Scientific Advisory Group shall provide guidance to the LGUs in relation to
19 technical documents, new scientific developments and policies in climate science and
20 coastal management; and in achieving their environmental goals.

21 It shall be composed of the following:

22 a) Representative from the academe who specializes in ICM or any related
23 discipline;

24 b) Representative from the DOST;

25 c) Representative from the DENR;

26 d) Representative from the BFAR;

27 e) Representative from the Philippine Association of Marine Science (PAMS)
28 or other professional society related to natural resource management and
29 coastal management; and

30 f) Representative from the PCG’s functional command Marine Environmental
31 Protection Command Service (MEPCOM).

1 The Scientific Advisory Group shall also convene to serve as the experts in
2 discussing and advising on the technical and science-based issues related to the
3 National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan in Chapter III of this Act. It may also
4 coordinate with existing science-based expert groups, such as the National Panel on
5 Technical Experts, on ICM-related policies and development.

6 *Sec. 24. Role of National Government Agencies.* – All concerned national
7 government agencies shall support the implementation of the National ICM
8 Framework and ICM-responsive mandated local plans, and promote ICM best
9 learnings that fall within their respective mandates. They shall identify, prepare, and
10 provide policy guidance and technical assistance to the DENR, the development
11 councils, and the LGUs in the implementation of the National ICM Framework and
12 ICM-responsive mandated local plans, and in the enforcement of relevant coastal
13 and marine policies and regulations; and regional and international commitments or
14 treaties. These agencies shall directly consult with concerned LGUs in the
15 development and implementation of the National ICM Framework and ICM-
16 responsive mandated local plans affecting coastal and marine areas in their
17 respective localities.

18 All government contracts entered into and permits issued by the government
19 such as foreshore lease agreements, forest management agreements, special land
20 use permits, and mining permits shall be entered into or issued by the government
21 and its instrumentalities in conformity with the National ICM Framework and ICM-
22 responsive mandated local plans.

23 *Sec. 25. Specially Managed or Administered Areas.* – Specially managed or
24 administered areas such as river basins, Water Quality Management Areas (WQMAs)
25 established under Republic Act No. 9275, otherwise known as the “Philippine Clean
26 Water Act of 2004”, special economic and freeport zones, and protected areas,
27 whether established under Republic Act No. 11038 or by virtue of an ordinance, shall
28 prepare their management plans in consonance with the ICM National Framework
29 and relevant ICM-responsive mandated local plans. Their management plans shall
30 incorporate ICM principles and best practices taking into account the interlinkages
31 between and among associated watersheds and wetlands.

1 *Sec. 26. Review of Existing ICM or Related Programs and Plans.* – Provinces,
2 cities, municipalities, specially managed or administered areas such as special
3 economic zones or freeport zones, bays, lakes, or marine protected areas (MPAs)
4 shall review, revise, reconcile, and harmonize their existing ICM or related programs
5 or plans based on the National ICM Framework within three (3) years from the
6 effectivity of this Act. Actual use shall be preferred over future or reserve use:
7 *Provided,* That all existing locational clearances and zoning permits issued by the
8 LGUs or other government agencies prior to the effectivity of this Act shall remain
9 valid pending review of existing programs and plans and zoning ordinances (ZOs),
10 and they shall not be invalidated because of the new and approved programs and
11 plans and ZOs which determined proper location in a different coastal use zoning
12 area: *Provided, further,* That appropriate measures shall be adopted by the LGU
13 concerned, the landowner, and the developer in the event that any existing structure
14 and facility are found to be properly covered by a different coastal use zoning
15 category in the areas where they are currently located: *Provided, finally,* That
16 existing structures and facilities within extremely hazardous and high risk danger
17 zones which cannot be addressed by any mitigating or protective measures shall be
18 required to relocate.

19 *Sec. 27. Role of Local Government Units.* – All LGUs shall act as the frontline
20 agencies in the formulation, planning, implementation, and monitoring of ICM
21 programs in their respective municipal waters. The ICM-responsive mandated local
22 plans shall be supportive of and compliant with the National ICM Framework and
23 shall be prepared in consultation with the stakeholders. The LGUs shall regularly
24 update their ICM-responsive mandated local plans such as LCCAPs, CLUPs, and CDPs
25 to reflect emerging needs, and changing, socio-economic, technological, and
26 environmental conditions. The LGUs shall also ensure that their annual work and
27 investment plans are aligned based on their ICM-responsive LCCAPs, CLUPs, and
28 CDP. The LGUs shall furnish the NCC their respective ICM-responsive mandated local
29 plans and all subsequent amendments, modifications, and revisions thereto. LGUs
30 shall mobilize and allocate the necessary personnel, resources, and logistics to
31 effectively implement their respective ICM-responsive mandated local plans.
32 Barangays shall be directly involved with municipal and city governments in

1 prioritizing coastal and marine issues and identifying and implementing solutions.
2 Municipal and city governments with coastal areas or zones shall consider ICM as
3 one of their priority programs.

4 Provincial governments shall provide technical assistance, enforcement, and
5 information management in support of Municipal and City ICM-responsive mandated
6 local plans. Inter-LGU collaboration shall be encouraged in the conduct of activities
7 related to protecting the country's coastal and marine resources.

8 *Sec. 28. Roles of Civil Society and the Private Sector.* – In the development
9 and implementation of the ICM program, the non-government organizations, civic
10 organizations, people's organizations, the academe, the private sector, and other
11 concerned stakeholder groups shall be engaged in activities such as planning,
12 community organizing, research, technology transfer, information sharing,
13 investment, training programs, and monitoring, and evaluation, response, and
14 feedback systems.

15 *Sec. 29. Supporting Activities.* – The following activities shall be undertaken in
16 support of the implementation of ICM programs:

17 a) ICM Education – The Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission
18 on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills
19 Development Authority (TESDA) shall integrate the concept and basic
20 principles of ICM into the primary, secondary, and tertiary education
21 curricula, as well as in the textbooks, primers and other educational
22 materials. The DOST shall likewise include integrated coastal
23 management, tropical marine ecosystem management, and other related
24 studies in their scholarship programs for graduate studies;

25 b) ICM Training Program for LGUs – The DENR and the DILG, through the
26 Local Government Academy, shall develop and provide ICM training
27 programs for LGUs. For this purpose, LGUs may allocate funds for
28 scholarships on tertiary and graduate courses relating to ICM or secure
29 funds for such scholarships from sources other than the LGU's funds;

30 c) Environmental and Natural Resource Accounting and Valuation for ICM
31 Planning – The NEDA and the National Statistical Coordination Board
32 (NSCB) shall incorporate coastal and marine resource accounting as well

1 as estimates of their carrying capacity in the national and regional
2 accounts;

- 3 d) Coastal and Marine Environmental Information Management System and
4 National Geospatial Database – The DENR shall oversee the establishment
5 and maintenance of a coastal and marine environmental information
6 management system and network, in collaboration with other concerned
7 national government agencies, institutions, LGUs, civil society
8 organizations and other academic institutions. The DENR shall promote
9 the documentation and information dissemination of good practices as
10 well as initiate replication and scaling up of ICM programs in the country.
11 The concerned agencies, however, shall review the coastal and marine
12 data prior to their public dissemination.

13 *Sec. 30. Contribution of the National ICM Framework to the Establishment of*
14 *the National Environment and Natural Resources Geospatial Database and Natural*
15 *Capital Accounting (NCA) System.* – The National ICM Framework shall contribute to
16 the creation of the National Geospatial Database on Environment and Natural
17 Resources (NER) that will serve as a platform for the planning and implementation
18 of integrated strategies for inter-agency and multi-sectoral collaboration. In
19 particular, a coastal and marine spatial planning tool shall be developed which can
20 bring together multiple users of the ocean, including energy, industry, government,
21 conservation, and recreation sectors, to make informed and coordinated decisions
22 about how to use marine resources.

23 It shall, likewise, contribute to the establishment of the NCA System, that
24 includes: (1) valuation of coastal and marine resources and the ecosystem services
25 that they provide; and (2) costs resulting from unsustainable economic activities,
26 over-exploitation of natural resources, loss of habitats and biodiversity, and
27 environmental degradation have to be analyzed since these are not explicitly
28 measured in the national income accounts.

29 **CHAPTER III**

30 **NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT ACTION PLAN**

31 *Sec. 31. National Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan.* – The NCC shall identify and
32 convene all national government agencies responsible for foreshore management,

1 mangrove and beach forest protection and utilization, coastal land and sea-use
2 planning, coastal tourism development, social welfare of coastal communities, and
3 other relevant mandates, to prepare an integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Action
4 Plan (NCGAP).

5 The NCGAP shall, at the minimum, contain the following:

6 a) Spatial representation, or if feasible, quick or rapid national inventory of
7 the status of coastlines and offshores, including the status of mangroves,
8 beach forests, settlements, structures, and fishponds within 100 meters
9 therein;

10 b) The action plan shall indicate that the assessment of priority areas shall be
11 completed within twelve (12) months from the adoption of the NCGAP;

12 c) Designation of priority areas for coastal greenbelts that are already
13 included either as a protected area under Republic Act No. 11038 or as a
14 fish refuge or sanctuary under Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as
15 the "Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998", as amended by Republic Act No.
16 10654, or as a local marine protected area as may be declared by
17 municipalities and cities through ordinances. The designation of a priority
18 area shall be completed within six (6) months from the completion of the
19 applicable biophysical, socioeconomic, and geological assessment
20 contemplated under Section 32 of this Act. Designation shall also be done
21 through a proposal to the appropriate agency, municipality or city as may
22 be deemed necessary. In the event an area is designated as a priority
23 area for coastal greenbelts, no structure shall be allowed therein unless it
24 is approved by the DENR or DA through the BFAR: *Provided*, That with
25 respect to the Province of Palawan, the necessary clearance from the
26 PCSD shall also be required pursuant to Republic Act No. 7611, otherwise
27 known as "Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act";

28 d) Operational plan for the rehabilitation, reforestation, or afforestation of
29 designated priority coastal greenbelts with ecologically appropriate
30 mangrove and beach forest species, not less than 100 meters in width.
31 Existing forests or plantations greater than the minimum width shall not
32 be reduced. The program for rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation

1 shall be community-based, long-term and implemented through the
2 municipality or city government. The operational plan shall indicate that
3 the program for rehabilitation, reforestation, and afforestation must cover
4 a minimum target area of twenty percent (20%) of the designated priority
5 areas in the first five (5) years for maximum protection of the most
6 vulnerable communities in the city or municipality. The remaining priority
7 areas must be completed within ten (10) years from the designation of the
8 priority area;

9 e) All fishponds that are declared by the DENR and DA-BFAR, through a joint
10 assessment, as abandoned, undeveloped or underutilized (AUU) shall be
11 turned over to the DENR within one (1) year after its declaration. The
12 DENR will then revert the AUU fishponds to their original mangrove state
13 through natural or artificial reforestation in accordance with Section 49 of
14 Republic Act No. 8550 as amended by Republic Act No. 10654. All AUU
15 fishponds turned over to the DENR shall be declared as part of the coastal
16 greenbelt. The minimum target for the first year of implementation of the
17 NCGAP will include all AUU fishpond areas turned over to the DENR for
18 reversion to their original mangrove state;

19 f) Operational Plan for the removal of illegal structures such as breakwater,
20 permanent residential or commercial structures, and the like, in the
21 identified priority coastal greenbelts. The NCGAP shall indicate that the
22 declaration and notice to persons responsible for the removal of illegal
23 structures shall be completed within twelve (12) months upon issuance of
24 Notice to Vacate. The removal of illegal structures and the start of
25 rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of these areas shall form part
26 of the minimum target for first year of implementation of the NCGAP;

27 g) Monitoring and evaluation plan, with quantitative and qualitative targets
28 consistent with (d), (e) and (f) above, appropriate indicators and
29 reasonable means of verification. The plan shall become an integrated part
30 of the NCGAP-responsive LCCAP.

31 The NCGAP and all of its relevant components shall be incorporated into the
32 mandated local plans of the LGUs, such as, but not limited to, CLUP and CDP.

1 Sec. 32. *Designated Areas for Coastal Greenbelt.* – Areas designated for
2 coastal greenbelt shall cover natural, rural and urban areas with mangrove or
3 mangrove areas, AUU fishponds turned over to the DENR, site specific stretches of
4 vegetation in areas requiring the reversion to mangroves through natural
5 regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species and beach forests,
6 subjected to prior vested right.

7 All applicable biophysical, socioeconomic, and geological assessments shall be
8 conducted prior to the designation of coastal greenbelts. Upon determination by the
9 NCC of a particular area as a designated area for coastal greenbelt under Section 31
10 (c) of this Act, CLUPs and zoning ordinances shall be updated accordingly.

11 AUU fishponds turned over to the DENR shall be prioritized in the designation
12 of coastal greenbelts and its corresponding reversion to category of public lands as
13 mangrove reforestation sites shall be completed within the year of identification as
14 such following the guidelines approved by the NCC.

15 Sec. 33. *Implementation of the NCGAP.* – In addition to the functions of the
16 NCC in Section 8 of this Act, the NCC shall take the lead in implementing the
17 component plans and programs of the NCGAP.

18 The DHSUD, through its attached agencies, shall provide appropriation for the
19 relocation of the families or individuals who will be affected by the designated areas
20 subject to the availability of funds.

21 Other agencies that participated in the preparation of the NCGAP-responsive
22 LCCAP shall implement their commitments thereto. The actions required by the NCC
23 are immediately executable based on the agreed NCGAP-responsive LCCAP, and on
24 NCC members existing mandates, programs or budgets that are aligned with the
25 action plan, without need for the formulation of the implementing guidelines, rules
26 and regulations for this Act.

27 All existing laws, rules, and regulations, providing protection to coastlines,
28 foreshores, and priority areas shall remain in full force and effect, and shall
29 supplement the provisions of this Act, unless otherwise terminated, modified or
30 amended.

31 Sec. 34. *Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Plan.* – The CDC or MDC established
32 pursuant to Section 107 (b) of Republic Act No. 7160 shall ensure that the coastal

1 greenbelt elements and strategies are incorporated into the mainstreaming process
2 of ICM within their respective development plans, land use plans, and other relevant
3 plans, whether at the highly urbanized city (HUC), independent component city
4 (ICC), component city, or municipal levels, including the implementation and
5 coordination necessary therefor which shall be reviewed by NCC. A detailed step-by-
6 step process of mainstreaming the coastal greenbelt into the relevant local plan of
7 the LGU shall be provided for in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

8 **CHAPTER IV**

9 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

10 Sec. 35. *Prohibited Acts.* – The following shall constitute prohibited acts
11 punishable under this Act, without prejudice to accrued liability for acts and
12 omissions punishable under existing environmental laws:

- 13 a) Any person who unjustly obstructs the LGU, DENR or DA through the
14 BFAR and PCSD in the Province of Palawan in the removal of illegal
15 structures in the process of reversion of AUU fishponds, shall be liable to
16 the agency for an administrative fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)
17 per day that the agency is prevented from performing its function.
- 18 b) No structures shall be built within the identified coastal greenbelts without
19 a permit from DENR, or DA through the BFAR, or PCSD in the Province of
20 Palawan, consistent with their mandates. Any person who violates this
21 prohibition shall be liable to the agency for an administrative fine of Fifty
22 thousand pesos (P50,000.00) per day from the time the structure was
23 built until its removal.
- 24 c) A crime or offense committed within the designated coastal greenbelt
25 areas shall subject the offender to a fine of not less than One hundred
26 thousand pesos (P100,000.00) and not more than Five million pesos
27 (P5,000,000.00), depending on the gravity of the offense.
- 28 d) Any violation of the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and
29 regulations duly promulgated and published, shall be subject to an
30 administrative fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) upon any person
31 or entity found guilty thereof.

1 Proceeds from the administrative fines imposed under this Section shall be
2 remitted to the Bureau of the Treasury.

3 Sec. 36. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial
4 implementation of the Act shall be charged against the current year appropriations
5 of the departments or agencies concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be
6 necessary for the continuing implementation of this Act shall be sourced from and
7 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

8 The LGUs concerned may provide the necessary funds for the purpose, in
9 their respective annual budgets.

10 Sec. 37. *Other Funding Options.* – The NCC, the local development councils,
11 the LGUs, and the national government agencies may source local and international
12 grants, bequests, donations, and other sustainable financing mechanisms in support
13 of ICM implementation. LGUs to be prioritized in the allocation of these funds shall
14 include sixth- up to third-class municipalities and LGUs with existing ICM and/or
15 related policies.

16 The Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines,
17 the People’s Credit and Finance Corporation, and other relevant government
18 financial institutions shall formulate and identify loan and financing mechanisms that
19 shall be made available to support local ICM-responsive programs, including
20 alternative livelihood projects for small-scale fisherfolks and cooperatives.

21 Sec. 38. *Tax Exemption.* – All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and
22 contributions made to the NCC, the local development councils, the LGUs, the DA,
23 the DENR, and the PCSD to be used actually, directly, and exclusively for the
24 implementation of the ICM shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be
25 considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of computing
26 the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National
27 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

28 Sec. 39. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DA, DENR, CCC, DHSUD,
29 and DILG, in consultation with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall
30 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within one hundred
31 eighty (180) days from its effectivity: *Provided,* That failure to issue the

1 implementing rules and regulations will not prevent the implementation of this Act
2 upon effectivity.

3 Sec. 40. *Annual Report.* – The NCC shall submit an annual report to the Office
4 of the President on its compliance with its functions under this Act, the
5 implementation of the ICM Framework, and the SoC Report on or before March 30 of
6 every year following the effectivity of this Act.

7 Sec. 41. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is
8 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in
9 full force and effect.

10 Sec. 42. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
11 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act
12 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

13 Sec. 43. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general
15 circulation.

Approved,