



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8503

BY REPRESENTATIVES BARZAGA, HATAMAN AND DALIPE

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MONTH OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS THE
"MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION MONTH"

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Marine Turtle
2 Conservation and Protection Month Act".

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It shall be the policy of the State to
4 conserve and protect the country's wildlife resources and their habitats for
5 sustainability, promote ecological balance, and enhance biological diversity.

6 In the pursuit of this policy, this Act shall have the following objectives:

7 (a) Promote full awareness and widest dissemination of policies on marine
8 turtle conservation and protection;

9 (b) Create and sustain awareness on the importance of the irreplaceable
10 ecological roles played by marine turtle species to help sustain the health
11 of the marine ecosystem; and

12 (c) Encourage the advocacy on marine turtle protection and sustainability.

13 **SEC. 3. Declaration of Marine Turtle Conservation and Protection**
14 **Month.** – The month of June in every year is hereby declared as the "Marine
15 Turtle Conservation and Protection Month". All heads of government agencies
16 and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations and

1 local government units shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities
2 for their employees to engage and participate in any activity conducted in celebration
3 of the "Marine Turtle Conservation and Protection Month". The month-long
4 celebration shall provide for more platforms and opportunities for the protection
5 and conservation of marine turtles and important habitats where these species
6 are present.

7 **SEC. 4. *Communication, Education, and Public Awareness.*** – The
8 Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall,
9 in coordination with concerned government agencies, local government units, and the
10 private sector, prepare and implement an annual program of activities pursuant to
11 the observance of the "Marine Turtle Conservation and Protection Month".

12 The DENR shall also undertake marine turtle information awareness and data
13 sharing with the assistance of other national agencies and local government units to
14 further strengthen the enforcement of this Act.

15 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days
16 from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall, after consultation with concerned
17 government agencies, issue rules and regulations to implement this Act.

18 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations
19 and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
20 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

21 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,