



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5311

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BY REPRESENTATIVES YAP (S.), LAGMAN, MATUGAS, UNGAB, QUIMBO,  
PRIMICIAS-AGABAS AND TAMBUNTING, PER COMMITTEE REPORT  
No. 531

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### AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN "ADOPT-A-WILDLIFE SPECIES PROGRAM" AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR

*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 "Adopt-a-Wildlife  
2   Species Act".

3           SEC. 2. *Adopt-a-Wildlife Species Program.* – There is hereby  
4   established an "Adopt-a-Wildlife Species Program", which shall encourage the  
5   adoption of wildlife species by local communities under guidelines to be  
6   jointly promulgated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
7   (DENR), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Finance  
8   (DOF) and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD). The  
9   program shall be implemented in all appropriate areas of the country with the  
10   active participation, involvement and assistance of the local government units  
11   (LGUs), nongovernment organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs),  
12   civil society groups and private individuals.

1 The program shall pursue the following objectives:

2 (a) To conserve and protect biological diversity and promote  
3 *ecological sustainable development*;

4 (b) To prevent species extinction and promote the protection of  
5 threatened species and their habitats; and

6 (c) To encourage the conservation of threatened species and their  
7 habitats through the active participation of the private sector and all other  
8 sectors of society.

9 SEC. 3. *Memorandum of Agreement.* – A Memorandum of Agreement  
10 (MOA) stipulating the terms and conditions of the adoption shall be executed  
11 by and between the entity or individual and the Secretary of the DENR, or the  
12 Secretary of the DA or the Chairperson of the PCSD, or their duly authorized  
13 representatives, whichever government agency has jurisdiction over the  
14 selected wildlife species, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9147 or the  
15 Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

16 The above parties, in preparing the MOA and in deciding the terms and  
17 conditions therein, shall consider the following:

18 (a) The most efficient and effective use of available resources for the  
19 conservation and protection of threatened species and their habitat;

20 (b) The minimization of any significant adverse social and economic  
21 consequences;

22 (c) The measures by which the public may cooperate in the  
23 conservation of a threatened species and/or its habitat;

24 (d) The special interest or knowledge that indigenous people may have  
25 in the species and habitat concerned; and

26 (e) *The acquisition of expert and professional assistance.*

1 The MOA shall, among others:

2 (1) Identify the threatened species and/or its habitat that will be  
3 covered by the program;

4 (2) Identify any process or processes that threaten the species and/or its  
5 habitat;

6 (3) Specify measures to be undertaken to ensure the conservation and  
7 protection of the threatened species and/or its habitat;

8 (4) Enumerate performance indicators that are to be used in evaluating  
9 the conservation and protection of the threatened species and/or its habitat; and

10 (5) Identify the private organizations or individuals and/or public  
11 authorities who may be involved in the implementation of the measures  
12 included in the MOA.

13 The MOA shall be effective for at least two (2) years, which period may  
14 be extended upon mutual agreement of the parties: *Provided*, That such period  
15 may be shortened in the event the adopting entity is dissolved or the adopting  
16 individual dies without any willing and qualified successor before the  
17 expiration of the contract period, unless the MOA is earlier terminated in  
18 accordance with Section 5 hereof: *Provided, further*, That if the adopting  
19 entity or individual chooses to assign the implementation of the program to  
20 another qualified entity or individual, such assignment shall be in writing and  
21 must be approved by the head of the government agency concerned or the  
22 person's duly authorized representative.

23 SEC. 4. *National Technical Committee and Regional Monitoring*  
24 *Committee*. -- The Secretary of the DENR and the Secretary of the DA shall  
25 establish in their respective agencies the following committees:

26 (a) A National Technical Committee (NTC) composed of ranking  
27 officials and experts in the field of wildlife conservation and management,  
28 including representatives from the private sector who are engaged in

1 biodiversity conservation, to formulate the design and mechanics of the  
2 implementation of the program. The NTC shall likewise meet once every three  
3 (3) months or as often as necessary to process project proposals submitted by  
4 parties interested in participating in the program, and submit appropriate  
5 recommendations to the concerned government agency head; and

6 (b) A Regional Monitoring Committee (RMC) composed of ranking  
7 regional officials down to the provincial and municipal/community levels, to  
8 conduct periodic monitoring evaluation of the performance of the adopting  
9 entity or individual, the results of which shall be the basis in granting the tax  
10 exemption to the adopting entity or individual mandated under Section 6  
11 hereof, or in preterminating the MOA when deemed appropriate, in cases of  
12 abandonment or insolvency of the adopting entity or individual or for serious  
13 violation of the MOA.

14 SEC. 5. *Obligations of the Adopting Entity or Individual.* – The  
15 adopting entity or individual shall be obligated to:

16 (a) Comply strictly with the terms and conditions stipulated in the  
17 MOA undertaken pursuant to Section 3 hereof; and

18 (b) Perform such other obligations or undertakings as may be required  
19 by the national government agency which has jurisdiction over the subject  
20 wildlife species consistent with Republic Act No. 9147.

21 SEC. 6. *Tax Exemption.* – Any donation, contribution, request or grant  
22 which shall be made to the “Adopt-a-Wildlife Species Program” by the  
23 adopting entity or individual shall be exempt from the donor’s tax and the  
24 same shall be considered as allowable deduction from gross income in the  
25 computation of the donor’s income tax, in accordance with the provisions of  
26 the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

1           SEC. 7. *Information Campaign.* – The DENR shall publish a list of  
2 wildlife species to be included in the program and, in coordination with the  
3 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall be responsible  
4 in disseminating the information about the program through the media and the  
5 LGUs.

6           SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial  
7 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's  
8 appropriations of the DENR, the DA, and the PCSD. Thereafter, such amounts  
9 as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the  
10 annual General Appropriations Act.

11          SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60)  
12 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR, the Secretary  
13 of the DA, and the Chairperson of the PCSD, or their duly authorized  
14 representatives, shall, in consultation with the DOF, jointly formulate the rules  
15 and regulations to implement the relevant provisions of this Act.

16          SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is  
17 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall  
18 not be affected by such declaration.

19          SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
20 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or  
21 modified accordingly.

22          SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
23 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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