



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10834

BY REPRESENTATIVES RAMIREZ-SATO, BABASA, ABUEG-ZALDIVAR, YAP (E.), BARZAGA,
SALVADOR-TAMBUNTING AND NIETO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1466

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TAMARAW CONSERVATION PROGRAM,
CREATING ITS ADMINISTRATIVE AND IMPLEMENTATION
MECHANISM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS 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 “Tamaraw
2 Conservation Management Act.”

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to protect and
4 advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with
5 the rhythm and harmony of nature. It is also the policy of the State to conserve
6 and protect the country's wildlife resources and its habitats, enhance biodiversity,
7 and ensure provision of ecosystem services.

8 Towards this end, the State shall institute measures with due regard to
9 local and national interest, Philippine commitments to international conventions,
10 treaties and agreements for the protection and conservation of biodiversity,
11 and wildlife resources.

12 **SEC. 3. *Creation of the Tamaraw Conservation Coordinating***
13 ***Council.*** – The Tamaraw Conservation Coordinating Council, hereinafter
14 referred to as the Council, is hereby created and shall be the body charged with
15 the formulation of policies and management of programs pertaining to the

1 conservation of the Tamaraw (*Bubalus Mindorensis*) and its current population in
2 the country.

3 The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
4 (DENR) shall serve as the Chairperson of the Council. The DENR Regional
5 Executive Director for Region IV-B may be designated as the permanent
6 representative by the DENR Secretary and the Assistant Regional Director for
7 Technical Services shall serve as the Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

8 The Chairperson shall designate the following as members of the Council:
9 the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers (PENROs)
10 of Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro; the DENR Community Environment
11 and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) of Sablayan and San Jose in Occidental
12 Mindoro; the CENRO of Roxas and Socorro in Oriental Mindoro; and the
13 Protected Area Superintendents (PASus) of Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park and Mt.
14 Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary.

15 The Chairperson shall invite representatives from the following to serve as
16 members of the Council:

- 17 (a) One (1) each from the Provincial governments of Occidental
18 Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro;
- 19 (b) One (1) each from concerned municipal government offices;
- 20 (c) Members of the House of Representatives from the
21 Congressional Districts of the provinces of Occidental Mindoro and
22 Oriental Mindoro;
- 23 (d) One (1) each from the National Commission on Indigenous
24 Peoples offices in Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro;
- 25 (e) One (1) each from the Indigenous Peoples tribal groups of
26 Buhid, Tau-Buid, Iraya, Bangon, and Alangan;
- 27 (f) One (1) each from the academe in Occidental Mindoro and
28 Oriental Mindoro;
- 29 (g) Three (3) locally-based conservation non-government
30 organizations(NGOs); and
- 31 (h) One from the local Chamber of Commerce.

32 **SEC. 4. Powers and Functions of the Council.** – For the effective
33 implementation of the provisions of this Act, the Council is hereby vested with
34 the following powers and functions:

- 1 (a) Oversee the implementation of the Tamaraw Conservation
2 Management and Action Plan (TCMAP) and the Tamaraw
3 Conservation Program (TCP);
- 4 (b) Integrate and harmonize TCMAP objectives and activities in
5 local development plans, management plans, and the annual work
6 and financial plans of the offices and agencies represented in the
7 Council;
- 8 (c) Monitor and review the implementation of TCMAP;
- 9 (d) Provide administrative support to the implementation of
10 projects and interventions under the TCMAP;
- 11 (e) Create thematic or site-based groups, as needed;
- 12 (f) Coordinate with LGUs for issues affecting their areas of
13 jurisdiction;
- 14 (g) Coordinate with other government agencies and
15 instrumentalities, the private sector and civic organizations for
16 cooperation and assistance in the performance of its functions;
- 17 (h) Arrange, negotiate for, accept donations, grants, gifts, loans,
18 and other funding from domestic and foreign sources to carry out
19 the activities and objectives of the TCP; and
- 20 (i) Perform such other functions as may be necessary in carrying
21 out the provisions of this Act.

22 **SEC. 5. *Tamaraw Conservation Technical Advisory Group.*** – To
23 ensure science-based interventions and decisions on the conservation of
24 Tamaraws, the Council, through the Chairperson, shall create a Tamaraw
25 Conservation Technical Advisory Group to be composed of representatives from
26 the following:

- 27 (a) Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB);
- 28 (b) Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau;
- 29 (c) Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA);
- 30 (d) International Union for Conservation of Nature Asian Wild
31 Cattle Specialist Group; and
- 32 (e) Other experts from the academe and conservation
33 organizations.

1 **SEC. 6. *The Tamaraw Conservation Program Office.*** – The Tamaraw
2 Conservation Program Office (TCPO) is hereby created. It shall act as the
3 implementing arm of the Council and shall perform the following functions:

- 4 (a) Lead the formulation and implementation of TCMAP;
- 5 (b) Prepare the Annual Work and Financial Plan for the TCP
6 based on the priority activities in the TCMAP;
- 7 (c) Assist in the mobilization of resources to augment financing of
8 the TCMAP;
- 9 (d) Develop project proposals and activities in pursuit of the
10 strategies of TCMAP;
- 11 (e) Create a Quick Response Team, in coordination with the
12 Protected Area Management Office, the concerned local government
13 units, and the Philippine National Police for the conduct of law
14 enforcement, investigation, and population surveys;
- 15 (f) Recommend management interventions including policies and
16 guidelines to address or resolve pressing issues and problems;
- 17 (g) Serve as secretariat of the Council;
- 18 (h) Initiate coordination mechanism and necessary arrangements
19 with the Protected Area Management Board through its PASu, for
20 collaborative conservation of Tamaraw population within the
21 protected area and facilitate integration and harmonization of
22 TCMAP with the management plan of the concerned protected area.
- 23 (i) Manage the Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm located in Sitio
24 Canturoy, Barangay Manoot, Rizal Occidental Mindoro, in
25 coordination with the Protected Area Management Office of Mts.
26 Iglit-Baco Natural Park;
- 27 (j) Lead in the implementation of the TCP's Work and Financial
28 Plan in coordination with stakeholders, such as local governments,
29 the Protected Area Management Board and Protected Area
30 Superintendents concerned;
- 31 (k) Prepare and submit quarterly and annual reports on Tamaraw
32 conservation to be submitted to the Secretary of DENR through the
33 Regional Executive Director and the BMB; and
- 34 (l) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Council.

1 **SEC. 7. *Organizational Structure of the Tamaraw Conservation***
2 ***Program Office.*** –

3 The TCPO shall be under the supervision of the DENR Region IV-B Office
4 and shall be headed by the PENRO of Occidental Mindoro. Within six (6) months
5 from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR Regional Executive Director for Region
6 IV-B, in coordination with the BMB, shall prepare the manpower requirements,
7 including plantilla positions for the TCPO to be submitted to the Department of
8 Budget and Management.

9 **SEC. 8. *Establishment of the Tamaraw Conservation and Research***
10 ***Center.*** – The Tamaraw Conservation and Research Center (TCRC) is hereby
11 established to ensure that all conservation policies and activities undertaken by
12 the TCPO are based on empirical data and findings from scientific studies and
13 research. The TCRC shall:

14 (a) Serve as the national conservation research center for the
15 Tamaraw in the areas of conservation genetics, reproductive
16 sciences, and diseases management;

17 (b) Promote conservation and research for the endemic species of
18 Mindoro Island; and

19 (c) Take over the operation of the existing Tamaraw Gene Pool
20 Farm within Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park to pursue the envisioned
21 plan to strengthen and expand Tamaraw meta-population
22 management in the entire Mindoro Island.

23 The management and operation of the TCRC facility shall be lodged with
24 the TCPO. All research activities shall be coordinated with the ERDB and BMB.

25 **SEC. 9. *Tamaraw Conservation in Protected Areas.*** – The concerned
26 Protected Area Management Board shall monitor and manage the Tamaraw
27 population within the protected areas, ensuring the introduction of adequate
28 measures and interventions for its conservation. The PAMB, through the PASu,
29 shall collaborate closely with the TCPO in carrying out Tamaraw conservation
30 programs and activities within the protected areas.

31 **SEC. 10. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of the DENR shall
32 immediately include in the Department's programs the implementation of this

1 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
2 Act.

3 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within six (6)
4 months following the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall, after consultation
5 with concerned government agencies and other institutions, promulgate rules
6 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

7 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act
8 is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not
9 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

10 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, ordinances, orders, rules,
11 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this
12 Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

13 **SEC. 14. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
14 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,