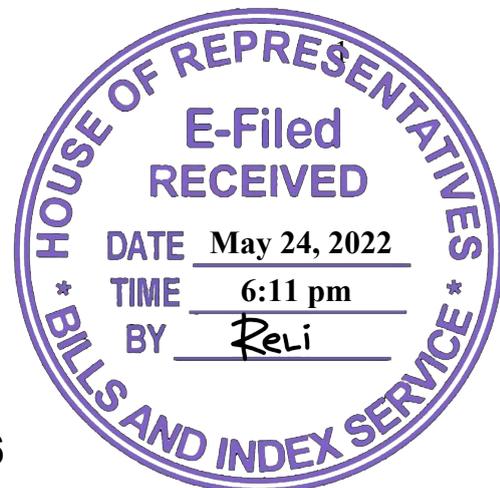




Eighteenth Congress
Third Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2596

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT TO DECLARE 2022 AS THE NATIONAL YEAR OF THE PROTECTED AREAS AND JUNE OF EACH YEAR AS THE NATIONAL MONTH OF THE PROTECTED AREAS

WHEREAS, Section 16 Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, biological diversity, also referred to as biodiversity, provides a variety of goods and services essential to sustain all life on earth and is the foundation of a sound environment essential for human well-being and sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, one of the seventeen (17) megadiverse countries in the world, containing two-thirds of the earth's biodiversity and between 70% and 80% of the world's plant and animal species¹, faces threats to its natural resources from human activities further compounded by the adverse impacts of climate change, in particular on terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal communities as manifested in increasing temperature and extreme variability in rainfall²;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9729 otherwise known as the Climate Change Act, as amended by Republic Act No. 10174, recognizes both the vulnerabilities and the value of ecosystems in adapting to the impacts of climate change, variability and extremes which is enshrined further among the thematic priorities of the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP);

WHEREAS, an effective response to climate change must be two-pronged, emphasizing both mitigation—which is reducing emissions and stabilizing greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere—and adaptation—which is adapting and adjusting to life in a changing climate, especially in light of the latest best available science on climate change, specifically the current Assessment Report of the

¹<https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ph#:~:text=The%20Philippines%20is%20one%20of,5%25%20of%20the%20world's%20flora.>

² <https://climate.gov.ph/files/NFSCC.pdf>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on Impacts, Vulnerability and Exposure³;

WHEREAS, the said IPCC Report notes with high confidence the importance of the conservation of key biodiversity areas, particularly in protected areas, as they serve as carbon sinks and help reduce carbon emissions, thereby reducing the magnitude of climate change;

WHEREAS, protected areas give the best of both adaptation and mitigation by reducing the impact of extreme climatic events (i.e. storms, floods, and rising sea levels) through providing ecosystem services such as bufferzones against storm surges, soil stabilization and floodwater dispersion;

WHEREAS, protected areas contribute to mitigation by capturing and storing carbon from the atmosphere, posing a great potential as carbon sinks when managed well;

WHEREAS, Presidential Memorandum Order No. 289 (1995) was issued, directing the integration of the National Biodiversity and Action Plans (NBSAP), as well as Executive Order No. 578 (2006) establishing national policy on biodiversity and directing all concerned government agencies and offices and local government units to integrate and mainstream the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into their policies, rules and regulations, programs and development planning processes⁴;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 7586 otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, as amended by Republic Act 11038, otherwise referred to as the Expanded National Integrated Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018, mandates the State to secure for the Filipino people of present and of future generations, the perpetual existence of all indigenous plants and animals through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas within the classification of National Park as provided for in the Constitution;

WHEREAS, the passage of this Act led to the legislation of additional 94 Protected Areas, making a total of 244 Protected Areas⁵ composed of about 7.8M hectares;

WHEREAS, many efforts are being done throughout the country by local communities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and local government units to conserve, protect, and sustainably use areas of biodiversity significance, and such multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder collaborations, and collective achievements, milestones and progress annually should be commemorated and monitored accordingly;

³ IPCC_AR6_WGII_Final Draft_Full Report. Accessed thru:

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf

⁴<https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ph#:~:text=The%20Philippines%20is%20one%20of,5%25%20of%20the%20world's%20flora.>

⁵ 107 legislated; 13 proclaimed; 124 remaining initial components

WHEREAS, the Year of the Protected Areas (YoPA) Campaign seeks to increase the public's awareness of the necessity and value of protected areas and promote regenerative tourism;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to urge the President of the Philippines to declare the Year 2022 as the National Year of the Protected Areas and June of each year as the National Month of Protected Areas.

RESOLVED FURTHER, to express the sense of the House of Representatives on the urgent call for a whole of government, whole of society, and whole of ecosystem approach to address the challenges—present and future—confronting our protected areas and biodiversity;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the new national and local leadership take cognizance of the best available science, with the stewardship of national agencies and scientific institutions and the academe, primarily the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Climate Change Commission (CCC), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Science and Technology, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), to promote synergies and the cascading of techniques and approaches to secure the wealth of our natural resources for the benefit of the present and future generations;

MOREOVER, the foregoing agencies are directed to accelerate the establishment of a mechanism concerning natural wealth accounting and ecosystem valuation, to serve as baseline information for development planning, especially the assessment of the carrying capacity of the natural resources, in light of the development aspirations of the country which gives emphasis on inclusive and holistic growth of the countryside and coastal communities, including their value in increasing national productivity and industrial competitiveness;

RESOLVED FINALLY, all agencies are called upon to assist the Local Government Units (LGUs) to craft their local development plans, including their Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP), and Annual Investment Plan, seeing to it that they inform the other mandated plans at the local level, to ensure resilience building measures utilizing nature-based solutions.

Adopted,


LOREN LEGARDA