Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6677

Introduced by
HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT DECLARING THE WATERS SURROUNDING PANAON ISLAND, IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, A PROTECTED AREA WITH THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED SEASCAPE UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS), TO BE REFERRED TO AS THE PANAON ISLAND PROTECTED SEASCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This is a revised version of House Bill 4095.

This version incorporates suggestions made by resource persons during the House Committee on Natural Resources’ initial deliberations and adopts a format similar to previous protected area declaration measures, which were approved by the committee and are now part of the statutory framework protecting our natural resources.

The technical description of the proposed Panaon Island Protected Seascape (PIPS) is now in the standard bearing-distance format as recommended by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) and has been reviewed and validated by them.

The Regional Directors of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), or their duly authorized representatives, are added as ex-officio members of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) in order to better tailor policies to the specific needs of the people of Panaon Island.

The supplemental application of the National Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act is
already explicitly provided, and redundant provisions are eliminated.

The establishment of PIPS is intended to protect the abundantly biodiverse waters surrounding Panaon Island as well as, to provide sustainable economic development and climate resilience to the municipalities on the island and the whole of Southern Leyte.

Thus, sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY, approval of this measure is urgently sought.

CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte
AN ACT DECLARING THE WATERS SURROUNDING PANAOI ON ISLAND, IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, A PROTECTED AREA WITH THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED SEASCAPE UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS), TO BE REFERRED TO AS THE PANAOI ON ISLAND PROTECTED SEASCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Panaon Island Protected Seascape Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — Cognizant of the profound impact of human activities on all components of the natural environment, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations, the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the declaration of protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) within the classification of national park as provided for in the Constitution.

In recognition of the richness of the biological resources, both flora and fauna, that are native and distinct to the Panaon Island Protected Seascape, as well as their aesthetic and ecological importance, the waters surrounding Panaon Island located in the Province of Southern Leyte, is hereby declared a protected area with the category of protected seascape, and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Panaon Island Protected Seascape (PIPS). As such, the State shall ensure the conservation, protection, management and rehabilitation of the area. It is likewise...
recognized that effective administration of this area is possible only through cooperation among national government, local government units (LGUs), concerned nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), private entities and local communities. The use and enjoyment of this area must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development.

Towards this end, the State shall ensure the full implementation of this Act, the mobilization of resources for the institutional mechanisms herein established, and the full scientific and technical support needed for the conservation of biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystems, culture and indigenous practices.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

(a) **Buffer zones** refer to identified areas outside the boundaries of and immediately adjacent to designated protected areas that need special development control in order to avoid or minimize harm to the protected area;

(b) **Conservation** refers to any act or acts of preservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife or maintenance, restoration and enhancement of habitats;

(c) **Indigenous cultural communities (ICCs)/Indigenous peoples (IPs)** refer to groups of people sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions, and other distinctive cultural traits, and who have, since time immemorial occupied, possessed and utilized a territory;

(d) **National park** refers to land of the public domain classified as such in the Constitution which includes all areas under the NIPAS, primarily designated for the conservation of native plants and animals, their associated habitats and cultural diversity;

(e) **Protected area** refers to an identified portion of land and water set aside by reason of its unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation;
(f) **Protected seascape** refers to an area of national significance which are characterized by the harmonious interaction of human, land, and water while providing opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation, tourism, and other economic activities; and

(g) **Tenured migrants** refer to protected area occupants who have been actually, continuously and presently occupying a portion of the protected area for five (5) years before the proclamation or law establishing the same as a protected area, and are solely dependent therein for subsistence.

**SEC. 4. Classification as Protected Area.** — The waters surrounding Panaon Island, in the Province of Southern Leyte, is hereby declared a protected area under the category of protected seascape pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586, or the “National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992”, as amended.

**SEC. 5. Scope and Coverage.** — The boundaries of the PIPS are more particularly described as the area beginning at a point marked “1” on the map, being N 80°49’16” E, 1,608.22 meters from PRS92 Control Monument “LYS-7” with geographic coordinates 10°9’36.00984” N 125°6’59.15699”E, located at Municipality of Liloan, Pintuyan, San Francisco and San Ricardo, Southern Leyte.

73 thence N 75°6’26” E 11,523.94 meters to corner 2;
74 thence S 54°52’1” E 5,287.38 meters to corner 3;
75 thence S 23°40’56” E 13,156.66 meters to corner 4;
76 thence S 39°36’41” E 3,418.48 meters to corner 5;
77 thence S 9°22’20” E 4,795.97 meters to corner 6;
78 thence S 20°52’29” E 6,215.03 meters to corner 7;
79 thence S 11°26’53” W 4,206.33 meters to corner 8;
80 thence S 39°19’46” W 4,848.87 meters to corner 9;
81 thence S 67°38’17” W 5,035.64 meters to corner 10;
82 thence N 89°8’35” W 4,390.48 meters to corner 11;
83 thence N 61°33’56” W 5,158.90 meters to corner 12;
84 thence N 31°41’5” W 16,303.31 meters to corner 13;
85 thence N 54°33’55” W 5,792.44 meters to corner 14;
86 thence N 12°24’37” W 14,298.12 meters to corner 15;
87 thence N 56°16’33” E 6,955.45 meters to corner 16.
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<td>S 37°41'54&quot; E</td>
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<td>S 63°48'56&quot; E</td>
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<td>90.94 meters to corner</td>
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<td>S 20°57'47&quot; E</td>
<td>74.64 meters to corner</td>
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<td>N 51°35'43&quot; E</td>
<td>126.65 meters to corner</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<td>N 27°39'22&quot; E</td>
<td>92.69 meters to corner</td>
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<td>S 74°17'16&quot; E</td>
<td>87.71 meters to corner</td>
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<td>140.37 meters to corner</td>
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<td>91.69 meters to corner</td>
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<td>28.60 meters to corner</td>
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<td>38.05 meters to corner</td>
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<td>S 29°24'20&quot; W</td>
<td>52.56 meters to corner</td>
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thence S 77°34'57" E 106.80 meters to corner 59;

thence S 10°24'39" W 51.02 meters to corner 60;

thence N 72°39'31" W 91.18 meters to corner 61;

thence N 85°9'8" W 185.32 meters to corner 62;

thence S 34°3'24" E 47.42 meters to corner 63;

thence S 8°1'13" W 34.57 meters to corner 64;

thence S 66°26'43" W 51.75 meters to corner 65;

thence S 15°36'50" E 30.16 meters to corner 66;

thence S 72°38'54" E 45.41 meters to corner 67;

thence S 16°52'0" E 66.02 meters to corner 68;

thence N 71°35'40" E 305.79 meters to corner 69;

thence S 64°36'34" E 46.14 meters to corner 70;

thence S 5°38'6" W 93.51 meters to corner 71;

thence S 67°23'31" W 155.19 meters to corner 72;

thence S 30°56'30" W 238.38 meters to corner 73;

thence N 88°16'23" W 93.03 meters to corner 74;

thence S 40°57'13" W 205.07 meters to corner 75;

thence S 32°53'1" E 146.90 meters to corner 76;

thence S 55°36'17" W 180.33 meters to corner 77;

thence N 34°49'46" W 51.43 meters to corner 78;

thence S 69°59'6" W 332.33 meters to corner 79;

thence N 84°7'49" W 97.73 meters to corner 80;

thence N 40°25'38" W 139.35 meters to corner 81;

thence N 0°25'25" W 134.56 meters to corner 82;

thence N 31°17'42" E 46.29 meters to corner 83;

thence N 3°51'48" E 52.24 meters to corner 84;

thence N 31°38'50" W 144.95 meters to corner 85;

thence N 89°45'19" W 32.67 meters to corner 86;

thence S 20°2'36" W 165.85 meters to corner 87;

thence S 33°15'49" W 106.50 meters to corner 88;

thence S 0°1'53" W 73.19 meters to corner 89;

thence S 17°58'30" E 313.13 meters to corner 90;

thence S 0°59'45" E 235.49 meters to corner 91;

thence S 18°5'19" W 278.93 meters to corner 92;

thence S 4°52" W 313.39 meters to corner 93;

thence S 10°7'16" W 208.64 meters to corner 94;

thence S 20°10'5" E 276.64 meters to corner 95;

thence S 31°12'5" E 118.13 meters to corner 96;

thence S 51°45'22" E 311.73 meters to corner 97;

thence S 36°33'7" E 245.03 meters to corner 98;

thence S 33°7'15" W 257.14 meters to corner 99;

thence S 40°53'0" W 189.17 meters to corner 100;
thence S 18°26’1” W 328.11 meters to corner 101;
thence S 3°1’25” W 206.79 meters to corner 102;
thence S 11°21’52” E 188.62 meters to corner 103;
thence S 13°28’6” W 220.08 meters to corner 104;
thence S 4°6’13” W 90.36 meters to corner 105;
thence S 15°13’47” E 188.01 meters to corner 106;
thence S 0°5’56” E 242.57 meters to corner 107;
thence S 27°55’55” W 172.72 meters to corner 108;
thence S 7°56’1” E 119.28 meters to corner 109;
thence S 4°43’16” W 258.80 meters to corner 110;
thence S 16°31’25” W 117.21 meters to corner 111;
thence S O°3’41” E 425.07 meters to corner 112;
thence S 22°59’23” E 241.78 meters to corner 113;
thence S 4°44’38” E 531.93 meters to corner 114;
thence S 12°47’37” E 140.55 meters to corner 115;
thence S 27°57’9” E 315.72 meters to corner 116;
thence S 22°38’20” W 100.29 meters to corner 117;
thence S 10°36’21” W 176.47 meters to corner 118;
thence S 42°8’54” E 235.80 meters to corner 119;
thence S 28°56’18” E 328.85 meters to corner 120;
thence S 15°32’0” W 102.68 meters to corner 121;
thence S 60°48’59” E 286.45 meters to corner 122;
thence S 20°39’2” E 97.10 meters to corner 123;
thence S 0°25’59” E 172.35 meters to corner 124;
thence S 8°39’27” W 136.32 meters to corner 125;
thence S 21°54’14” W 317.60 meters to corner 126;
thence S 33°34’23” E 253.49 meters to corner 127;
thence S 3°22’21” E 222.70 meters to corner 128;
thence S 47°42’28” E 261.48 meters to corner 129;
thence S 35°3’17” E 959.76 meters to corner 130;
thence S 22°40’58” E 408.38 meters to corner 131;
thence S 64°40’54” E 96.18 meters to corner 132;
thence S 34°45’0” E 184.24 meters to corner 133;
thence S 17°18’5” E 112.95 meters to corner 134;
thence S 6°27’49” E 100.91 meters to corner 135;
thence S 8°2’47” E 55.98 meters to corner 136;
thence S 18°15’42” E 125.66 meters to corner 137;
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thence S 14°0’43” W 329.31 meters to corner 139;
thence N 74°54’21” E 75.93 meters to corner 140;
thence S 78°38’57” E 193.75 meters to corner 141;
thence S 68°8’9” E 95.86 meters to corner 142;
thence S 44°14'11" E 147.14 meters to corner 143;
thence S 89°27'25" E 102.49 meters to corner 144;
thence S 43°13'10" E 224.58 meters to corner 145;
thence S 85°10'18" E 285.82 meters to corner 146;
thence N 82°34'23" E 520.85 meters to corner 147;
thence S 62°23'13" E 83.16 meters to corner 148;
thence N 0°39'8" E 82.02 meters to corner 149;
thence S 85°13'10" E 166.12 meters to corner 150;
thence S 33°1'12" W 98.68 meters to corner 151;
thence S 71°56'58" E 122.04 meters to corner 152;
thence S 67°39'1" E 130.09 meters to corner 153;
thence S 60°10'15" E 158.28 meters to corner 154;
thence S 69°26'44" E 129.99 meters to corner 155;
thence S 80°25'19" E 137.19 meters to corner 156;
thence S 53°56'6" E 308.55 meters to corner 157;
thence S 57°58'39" E 743.97 meters to corner 158;
thence S 70°44'38" E 194.69 meters to corner 159;
thence S 52°53'44" E 245.14 meters to corner 160;
thence N 82°0'24" E 64.06 meters to corner 161;
thence S 84°10'52" E 243.16 meters to corner 162;
thence S 63°43'13" E 173.76 meters to corner 163;
thence S 56°1'52" E 378.96 meters to corner 164;
thence S 60°19'54" E 542.63 meters to corner 165;
thence S 71°32'46" E 172.16 meters to corner 166;
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thence S 8°48'11" E 246.12 meters to corner 169;
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thence S 24°11'41" E 214.28 meters to corner 173;
thence S 45°7'27" E 609.08 meters to corner 174;
thence S 47°46'16" E 603.83 meters to corner 175;
thence S 0°40'30" E 375.09 meters to corner 176;
thence S 35°44'55" E 568.56 meters to corner 177;
thence S 3°30'14" E 304.97 meters to corner 178;
thence S 26°43'48" E 887.46 meters to corner 179;
thence S 0°54'59" W 130.66 meters to corner 180;
thence S 19°30'21" E 427.09 meters to corner 181;
thence S 10°38'42" E 253.37 meters to corner 182;
thence S 26°44'48" E 244.67 meters to corner 183;
thence S 36°6'47" E 258.64 meters to corner 184;
thence S 39°0'27" E 1,025.38 meters to corner 185;
thence S 48°29'38" E 597.45 meters to corner 186;
thence S 6°11'17" W 382.92 meters to corner 187;
thence S 50°19'10" E 198.96 meters to corner 188;
thence S 24°42'42" E 215.73 meters to corner 189;
thence S 9°6'31" E 186.64 meters to corner 190;
thence S 11°25'2" W 115.07 meters to corner 191;
thence S 17°11'1" E 129.07 meters to corner 192;
thence N 81°7'55" E 109.86 meters to corner 193;
thence N 43°19'35" E 209.30 meters to corner 194;
thence S 58°55'8" E 134.57 meters to corner 195;
thence N 67°16'41" E 495.55 meters to corner 196;
thence S 72°31'45" E 267.37 meters to corner 197;
thence S 67°8'9" E 582.33 meters to corner 198;
thence S 39°58'49" E 754.52 meters to corner 199;
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thence S 30°25'48" E 223.75 meters to corner 201;
thence S 37°32'17" E 585.19 meters to corner 202;
thence S 23°12'10" E 248.04 meters to corner 203;
thence S 14°17'33" W 173.74 meters to corner 204;
thence S 1°47'17" W 137.44 meters to corner 205;
thence S 16°54'56" W 166.88 meters to corner 206;
thence S 1°4'48" W 666.95 meters to corner 207;
thence S 25°28'47" E 379.06 meters to corner 208;
thence S 12°6'35" E 178.76 meters to corner 209;
thence S 0°44'19" E 214.52 meters to corner 210;
thence S 23°54'53" E 416.81 meters to corner 211;
thence S 20°40'3" E 673.74 meters to corner 212;
thence S 20°23'2" E 317.66 meters to corner 213;
thence S 10°25'19" E 262.50 meters to corner 214;
thence S 33°38'36" E 224.08 meters to corner 215;
thence S 53°43'51" E 409.46 meters to corner 216;
thence S 60°13'19" E 351.68 meters to corner 217;
thence S 70°39'7" E 287.30 meters to corner 218;
thence S 83°54'52" E 152.35 meters to corner 219;
thence N 75°36'24" E 875.60 meters to corner 220;
thence S 89°12'58" E 298.06 meters to corner 221;
thence S 75°27'14" E 300.07 meters to corner 222;
thence S 87°29'55" E 349.57 meters to corner 223;
thence N 79°16'36" E 234.54 meters to corner 224;
thence N 71°10'10" E 322.67 meters to corner 225;
thence N 59°42'33" E 154.07 meters to corner 226;
thence N 59°42'32" E 204.82 meters to corner 227;
thence N 40°3'46" E 391.82 meters to corner 228;
thence N 27°36'40" E 116.08 meters to corner 229;
thence N 12°38'35" E 158.41 meters to corner 230;
thence S 74°16'12" E 39.58 meters to corner 231;
thence N 15°52'52" E 45.80 meters to corner 232;
thence S 75°15'57" E 24.33 meters to corner 233;
thence N 15°29'25" E 56.63 meters to corner 234;
thence N 75°7'13" W 50.69 meters to corner 235;
thence N 30°20'34" E 188.87 meters to corner 236;
thence N 41°46'9" E 450.73 meters to corner 237;
thence N 51°48'4" E 358.61 meters to corner 238;
thence N 26°0'30" W 167.64 meters to corner 239;
thence N 3°35'2" W 587.60 meters to corner 240;
thence N 18°40'58" W 282.01 meters to corner 241;
thence N 26°32'8" W 478.55 meters to corner 242;
thence N 44°54'16" W 112.26 meters to corner 243;
thence N 78°42'1" W 122.32 meters to corner 244;
thence N 15°36'19" W 327.96 meters to corner 245;
thence N 36°45'42" W 334.50 meters to corner 246;
thence N 25°44'23" W 283.01 meters to corner 247;
thence N 38°18'41" W 192.64 meters to corner 248;
thence N 49°28'48" W 426.92 meters to corner 249;
thence N 18°7'40" W 173.01 meters to corner 250;
thence N 52°10'39" W 301.85 meters to corner 251;
thence N 50°25'45" W 168.43 meters to corner 252;
thence N 40°23'29" W 264.19 meters to corner 253;
thence N 51°50'7" W 213.83 meters to corner 254;
thence N 42°32'8" W 235.75 meters to corner 255;
thence N 34°21'52" W 511.93 meters to corner 256;
thence N 39°23'59" W 294.96 meters to corner 257;
thence N 14°1'29" W 322.04 meters to corner 258;
thence N 21°17'12" W 233.84 meters to corner 259;
thence N 6°59'46" E 162.14 meters to corner 260;
thence N 34°56'59" E 780.15 meters to corner 261;
thence N 6°18'35" W 450.17 meters to corner 262;
thence N 17°28'55" E 416.31 meters to corner 263;
thence N 27°45'33" E 473.23 meters to corner 264;
thence N 21°57'36" E 404.93 meters to corner 265;
thence N 6°17'34" W 242.13 meters to corner 266;
thence N 42°4'23" W 544.11 meters to corner 267;
thence N 51°31'15" W 259.34 meters to corner 268;
thence S 74° 9' 22" W 69.95 meters to corner 269;
thence N 68° 44' 26" W 214.63 meters to corner 270;
thence N 54° 42' 53" W 126.20 meters to corner 271;
thence N 22° 45' 44" W 263.80 meters to corner 272;
thence N 43° 42' 23" W 618.26 meters to corner 273;
thence N 36° 13' 15" W 330.29 meters to corner 274;
thence N 11° 20' 34" W 173.59 meters to corner 275;
thence N 26° 26' 47" W 104.06 meters to corner 276;
thence N 52° 11' 48" W 136.45 meters to corner 277;
thence N 43° 3' 57" W 135.47 meters to corner 278;
thence N 15° 18' 20" W 222.76 meters to corner 279;
thence N 19° 38' 1" W 148.42 meters to corner 280;
thence N 42° 29' 32" W 106.89 meters to corner 281;
thence N 59° 13' 47" W 200.74 meters to corner 282;
thence N 35° 51' 57" W 127.46 meters to corner 283;
thence N 59° 27' 26" W 162.07 meters to corner 284;
thence N 35° 23' 27" W 107.00 meters to corner 285;
thence N 46° 4' 18" W 209.95 meters to corner 286;
thence N 24° 22' 3" W 732.31 meters to corner 287;
thence N 1° 57' 24" W 248.08 meters to corner 288;
thence N 9° 27' 34" W 138.65 meters to corner 289;
thence N 28° 0' 9" W 203.46 meters to corner 290;
thence N 52° 31' 47" W 148.77 meters to corner 291;
thence N 28° 18' 37" W 106.50 meters to corner 292;
thence N 3° 26' 52" W 119.01 meters to corner 293;
thence N 35° 6' 48" W 211.31 meters to corner 294;
thence N 44° 23' 27" W 173.93 meters to corner 295;
thence N 19° 34' 32" W 75.71 meters to corner 296;
thence S 68° 24' 1" W 90.14 meters to corner 297;
thence N 62° 5' 10" W 126.28 meters to corner 298;
thence N 42° 46' 8" W 188.97 meters to corner 299;
thence N 26° 57' 36" W 157.20 meters to corner 300;
thence N 8° 35' 21" W 191.08 meters to corner 301;
thence N 19° 23' 2" E 297.19 meters to corner 302;
thence N 11° 36' 46" E 210.16 meters to corner 303;
thence N 37° 16' 25" W 625.12 meters to corner 304;
thence N 17° 21' 2" W 377.40 meters to corner 305;
thence N 13° 58' 39" W 307.90 meters to corner 306;
thence N 9° 14' 55" W 483.22 meters to corner 307;
thence N 6° 25' 33" E 135.97 meters to corner 308;
thence N 27° 47' 10" W 382.83 meters to corner 309;
thence N 21° 2' 13" W 190.67 meters to corner 310;
thence N 35°7'17" W 175.83 meters to corner 311;

thence N 54°49'10" W 233.26 meters to corner 312;

thence N 33°36'13" W 174.94 meters to corner 313;

thence N 2°44'20" E 292.34 meters to corner 314;

thence N 11°6'16" E 293.54 meters to corner 315;

thence N 6°27'37" W 139.86 meters to corner 316;

thence N 30°40'39" W 443.90 meters to corner 317;

thence N 46°48'53" W 259.84 meters to corner 318;

thence N 34°37'10" W 274.89 meters to corner 319;

thence N 54°43'31" W 397.51 meters to corner 320;

thence N 33°30'5" W 692.55 meters to corner 321;

thence N 24°0'57" E 115.74 meters to corner 322;

thence N 10°2'37" W 228.43 meters to corner 323;

thence N 16°37'27" W 358.29 meters to corner 324;

thence N 38°40'36" W 409.43 meters to corner 325;

thence N 31°10'2" W 309.34 meters to corner 326;

thence N 6°56'50" W 254.84 meters to corner 327;

thence N 4°3'30" E 391.67 meters to corner 328;

thence N 8°48'50" W 308.66 meters to corner 329;

thence N 17°59'29" W 359.23 meters to corner 330;

thence N 57°12'31" W 287.65 meters to corner 331;

thence N 20°18'12" W 281.31 meters to corner 332;

thence N 1°54'49" W 188.09 meters to corner 333;

thence N 21°28'42" W 229.77 meters to corner 334;

thence N 4°2'47" W 144.10 meters to corner 335;

thence N 8°48'46" E 141.60 meters to corner 336;

thence N 18°20'11" W 74.17 meters to corner 337;

thence N 58°21'8" W 79.30 meters to corner 338;

thence S 87°41'9" W 242.13 meters to corner 339;

thence S 72°46'5" W 140.47 meters to corner 340;

thence S 89°17'11" W 118.98 meters to corner 341;

thence S 65°36'6" W 295.09 meters to corner 342;

thence S 85°40'3" W 266.15 meters to corner 343;

thence N 61°17'50" W 217.69 meters to corner 344;

thence N 65°45'22" W 460.70 meters to corner 345;

thence N 77°23'22" W 202.13 meters to corner 346;

thence S 86°29'57" W 361.04 meters to corner 347;

thence N 78°35'42" W 262.10 meters to corner 348;

thence N 65°32'50" W 192.68 meters to corner 349;

thence N 53°34'11" W 193.33 meters to corner 350;

thence N 43°5'1" W 379.36 meters to corner 351;

thence N 66°1'40" W 250.05 meters to corner 352;
thence S 76°43’51” W 377.18 meters to corner 353;

thence S 89°7’33” W 356.52 meters to corner 354;

thence S 78°29’57” W 241.68 meters to corner 355;

thence S 74°32’16” W 658.86 meters to corner 356;

thence N 75°59’59” W 348.66 meters to corner 357;

thence N 54°28’13” W 350.74 meters to corner 358;

thence N 44°19’25” W 316.45 meters to corner 359;

thence N 69°17’15” W 223.45 meters to corner 360;

thence N 51°39’4” W 557.97 meters to corner 361;

thence N 41°26’18” W 792.34 meters to corner 362;

thence N 34°35'46” W 413.89 meters to corner 363;

thence N 61°23’40” W 384.86 meters to corner 364;

thence N 57°11’11” W 360.78 meters to corner 365;

thence N 47°4’55” W 475.61 meters to corner 366;

thence N 67°24’52” W 259.83 meters to corner 367;

thence N 49°58’25” W 143.51 meters to corner 368;

thence N 38°30’59” W 471.54 meters to corner 369

the point of beginning containing an area of Sixty-one thousand two hundred fifty and 61/100 61,250.61 hectares, more or less.

SEC. 6. Establishment of Buffer Zones. — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) created under Section 7 of this Act, may designate areas surrounding the PIPS as buffer zones for the purpose of providing an extra layer of protection where restrictions may be applied: Provided, That, in cases where the designated buffer zone would cover private lands, the owners thereof shall be required to design their development with due consideration to the protected area management plan.

ARTICLE II

MANAGEMENT MECHANISM

SEC. 7. Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) shall be created to oversee the management of the PIPS. The PAMB shall be composed of the following:

(a) DENR Regional Executive Director for Region VIII,
Chairperson;

(b) Governor of the Province of Southern Leyte or his/her duly
authorized representative;

(c) Senators of the Republic of the Philippines who are duly registered
residents of the Province of Southern Leyte, or their duly designated
representatives, unless the Senators decline the membership in the
PAMB;

(d) District Representative of the Congressional District where the
PIPS is located, or his/her duly designated representative, unless the
District Representative declines the membership in the PAMB;

(e) Mayors of the Municipality of Liloan, Municipality of Pintuyan,
Municipality of San Francisco, and the Municipality of San
Ricardo, in the Province of Southern Leyte, or their duly authorized
representatives;

(f) Chairpersons of all the coastal barangays with territorial
jurisdiction over area where PIPS is located;

(g) Regional Directors of the following government agencies, namely:
Department of Agriculture (DA), National Economic and
Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Science and
Technology (DOST), Philippine National Police (PNP),
Department of National Defense (DND), Department of Tourism
(DOT), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),
and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

(h) Three representatives from either NGOs, or people’s organizations
(POS) based in the Province of Masbate, duly accredited both by
the DENR and the provincial government. The NGOs or POs
represented should have been in existence for at least five (5) years
and must have a record of accomplishments in the field of protected
area management;

(i) At least one but not more than three representatives from all the
ICCs/IPs present in the area and recognized by the National
Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);

(j) One representative from an academic institution, preferably from
a university or college in the Province of Southern Leyte, with proven track record in or related to protected area management; and

(k) One representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of the Province of Southern Leyte, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to the protected area management.

The terms of office of members of the PAMB, as well as the grounds for their removal, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the “National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992”, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, otherwise known as the “Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018”.

SEC. 8. **Powers and Functions of the PAMB.** — The PAMB shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) Oversee the management of the protected area;

(b) Approve policies, plans and programs, proposals, agreements, and other related documents for the management of the protected areas;

(c) Approve the management plan of the protected area and ensure its harmonization with and integration into the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan, land use plan and other development plans, public or private, and their implementation;

(d) Adopt a manual of operations to include rules of procedures in the conduct of business, and the creation of committees and their respective terms of reference;

(e) Recommend the deputation of appropriate agencies and individuals for the enforcement of the laws, rules and regulations governing the management of the protected area;

(f) Allocate financial resources for the implementation of the management plan and manage the Protected Area Retention
Income Account and other funds in accordance with government accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations;

(g) Set fees and charges in accordance with existing guidelines;

(h) Issue rules and regulations for the resolution of conflicts through appropriate and effective means;

(i) Recommend appropriate policy changes to the DENR and other government authorities with respect to the management of the PIPS;

(j) Monitor and assess the performance of the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) and other protected area personnel and compliance of partners with the terms and conditions of any undertaking, contract or agreement relative to any project or activity within the PIPS;

(k) Recommend from among a shortlist of qualified candidates, the designation or appointment of the PASu; and

(l) Assess the effectiveness of the management of the protected area:

Provided, That the members of the PAMB representing the LGUs and national agencies shall inform their respective constituents, offices or sectors, of PAMB-approved or other relevant policies, rules, regulations, programs, and projects and shall ensure that the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations issued to implement it are complied with and used as reference and framework in their respective plans, policies, programs, and projects. Failure to comply with the foregoing shall be the basis for disciplinary action against such member according to administrative rules and regulations and such penalties as the PAMB may provide: Provided, further, That the DENR, through the Regional Director, shall ensure that the PAMB acts within the scope of its powers and functions. In case of conflict between the resolutions issued by the PAMB and the existing administrative orders of national application, the latter shall prevail.

SEC. 9. The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO). — There is hereby established a Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) to be headed
by a PASu who shall supervise the day to day management, protection, and administration of the PIPS. The PASu shall hold a permanent plantilla position and shall be appointed by the DENR Secretary. A sufficient number of support staff with permanent plantilla positions shall likewise be appointed by the DENR Secretary to assist the PASu in the management of the protected area.

The PASu shall be primarily accountable to the PAMB and the DENR for the management and operations of the PIPS. Pursuant thereto, the PASu shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Prepare the management plan, in consultation with the stakeholders, including the annual work and financial plan and ensure its implementation;

(b) Ensure the integration of the protected area management plans, programs, projects, and policies with relevant national and LGUs’ plans and programs;

(c) Provide secretariat services to the PAMB and its committees and ensure the availability of relevant and timely information for decision-making;

(d) Formulate and recommend to the PAMB proposed policies, rules, regulations, and programs;

(e) Establish, operate, and maintain a database management system which shall be an important basis for decision-making;

(f) Enforce the laws, rules and regulations relevant to the protected area, commence and institute administrative and legal actions in collaboration with other government agencies or organizations, and assist in the prosecution of offenses committed in violation of the provisions of this Act;

(g) Monitor, evaluate, and report the implementation of management activities of the protected area;

(h) Request for and receive any technical assistance, support or advice from any agency or instrumentality of the government as well as academic institutions, NGOs, and the private sector, as may be
necessary for the effective management, protection and administration of the protected area;

(i) Issue permits and clearances for activities that implement the management plan and other permitted activities in accordance with terms, conditions, and criteria established by the PAMB: Provided, That all permits for extraction of natural resources, including collection of wildlife, and its by-products or derivatives for research purposes, shall continue to be issued by relevant authorities, subject to prior clearance from the PAMB, through the PASu, in accordance with the specific acts to be covered;

(j) Collect and receive pertinent fees, charges, donations, and other income for the protected area: Provided, That such fees, charges, donations, and other income collected and received shall be reported regularly to the PAMB and the DENR in accordance with existing guidelines;

(k) Prepare and recommend to the PAMB, approval of the annual work and financial plans of the protected area based on the management plan; and

(l) Perform such other functions as the PAMB and the DENR may assign.

The PAMO may be augmented by the deputized local environment and natural resources officers upon the recommendation of the PAMB and approval of the DENR.

ARTICLE III

PROCEEDS AND FEES

SEC. 10. The Panaon Island Protected Seascape Integrated Protected Area Fund. — There is hereby established a trust fund to be known as the Panaon Island Protected Seascape Integrated Protected Area Fund (PIPS-IPAF) for purposes of financing projects of the PIPS and the NIPAS. All income generated from the operation of the system or the management of wild flora and fauna in the PIPS shall accrue to the PIPS-IPAF. The income shall be derived from fees from permitted sale and export of flora and fauna and other resources from the PIPS proceeds from lease of multiple-use
areas, contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting from
the PIPS, and such other fees and income derived from the operation of
the PIPS.

The PAMB shall retain seventy-five percent (75%) of all revenues raised
through the above means, which shall be deposited to the Protected Area-
Retained Income Account (PA-RIA) in any authorized government
depository bank within the locality: Provided, That disbursements out of
such deposits shall be used solely for the protection, maintenance,
administration, and management of the protected area and
implementation of duly approved projects of the PAMB. The remaining
twenty-five percent (25%) of revenues shall be deposited as a special
account in the general fund in the National Treasury for purposes of
financing the projects of the NIPAS.

The fund may be augmented by grants, donations, endowment from
various sources, domestic or foreign: Provided, That the fund shall be
deposited in full as a special account in the National Treasury and
disbursements therefrom shall be made solely for the protection,
maintenance, administration and management of the NIPAS and duly
approved projects endorsed by the PAMB in accordance with existing
accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations: Provided,
further, That the fund shall not be used to cover personal services
expenditures.

The LGUs shall continue to impose and collect all taxes and other fees not
enumerated herein which they have traditionally collected, such as
business permits, property tax and rentals of LGUs’ facilities.

ARTICLE IV

TRANSITORY AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 11. Appropriations. The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include in
the Department’s program the implementation of this Act, the funding of
which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. Suppletory Application of the NIPAS Law. — The provisions of Republic
Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, shall have suppletory application to this Act.

SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR shall, in consultation with the local governments of the Municipality of Liloan, Municipality of Pintuyan, Municipality of San Francisco, Municipality of San Ricardo, and the Province of Southern Leyte, and concerned national government agencies, issue the corresponding rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. Separability Clause. — If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections or provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,