

S. No. 2617
H. No. 9396

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress

Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-second day of July, two thousand twenty-four.

[REPUBLIC ACT No. 12238]

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 activity 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 ecologically important flora and fauna through the declaration of protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) within the classification of national park as provided in the Constitution.

In recognition of the richness of biological resources, both flora and fauna, that are native and distinct to the surrounding waters of the Panaon Island, as well as their aesthetic and ecological importance, a parcel of land of the public domain located in the Municipalities of Liloan, Pintuyan, San Francisco, and San Ricardo in the Province of Southern Leyte is hereby declared a protected area under 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 the national government, local government units (LGUs), concerned non-governmental 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, and cultural and indigenous practices.

SEC. 3. *Classification as a National Park.* – The PIPS is composed of the waters surrounding the Panaon Island situated in the Municipalities of Liloan, Pintuyan, San Francisco, and San Ricardo in the Province of Southern Leyte, the metes and bounds of which are described in Section 4 of this Act. All lands of the public domain within the coverage and scope of the PIPS shall fall under the classification of a national park as provided for in Article XII, Section 3 of the Constitution.

SEC. 4. *Scope and Coverage.* – The PIPS shall cover the Municipalities of Liloan, San Francisco, Pintuyan, and San Ricardo, Province of Southern Leyte.

Beginning at a point marked "1" on the Map being N81°04'54"E, 1607.313 meters from PRS'92 Control Monument "LYS-7" with geographic coordinates of 10°9'35.928606" Latitude and 125°6'59.18374" Longitude, located at Barangay Poblacion, Municipality of Liloan, Province of Southern Leyte,

thence N 75°27'39" E	11,519.89	meters to corner	2;
thence S 54°30'49" E	5,285.30	meters to corner	3;
thence S 23°19'52" E	13,151.13	meters to corner	4;
thence S 39°15'45" E	3,416.97	meters to corner	5;
thence S 09°01'28" E	4,793.82	meters to corner	6;
thence S 20°31'43" E	6,212.19	meters to corner	7;
thence S 11°47'33" W	4,204.39	meters to corner	8;
thence S 39°40'22" W	4,846.69	meters to corner	9;
thence S 67°58'50" W	5,033.48	meters to corner	10;
thence N 88°48'04" W	4,388.71	meters to corner	11;
thence N 61°13'23" W	5,156.94	meters to corner	12;
thence N 31°20'22" W	16,297.69	meters to corner	13;
thence N 54°13'03" W	5,790.66	meters to corner	14;
thence N 12°03'35" W	14,294.01	meters to corner	15;
thence N 56°37'45" E	6,953.40	meters to corner	16;
thence S 36°23'44" E	93.247	meters to corner	17;
thence S 75°58'33" E	83.933	meters to corner	18;
thence N 44°08'04" E	50.688	meters to corner	19;
thence S 73°29'40" E	209.701	meters to corner	20;
thence S 35°17'00" E	239.632	meters to corner	21;
thence S 01°59'03" E	336.237	meters to corner	22;
thence S 60°06'18" E	83.134	meters to corner	23;
thence N 61°51'40" E	138.894	meters to corner	24;
thence N 54°26'35" E	208.984	meters to corner	25;
thence N 67°03'52" E	91.532	meters to corner	26;
thence S 42°41'20" E	113.76	meters to corner	27;
thence S 13°48'12" E	78.637	meters to corner	28;
thence S 27°26'28" W	100.006	meters to corner	29;
thence S 42°07'50" W	136.37	meters to corner	30;
thence S 10°23'16" W	131.635	meters to corner	31;
thence S 56°56'33" W	128.077	meters to corner	32;
thence S 50°35'15" W	151.53	meters to corner	33;
thence S 17°12'24" W	201.027	meters to corner	34;
thence S 19°19'13" E	109.284	meters to corner	35;
thence S 37°20'41" E	88.159	meters to corner	36;
thence S 63°27'44" E	132.779	meters to corner	37;

thence S 74°28'19" E 93.761 meters to corner 38;
 thence N 50°58'56" E 143.542 meters to corner 39;
 thence N 84°37'32" E 72.983 meters to corner 40;
 thence S 71°57'32" E 98.534 meters to corner 41;
 thence S 11°58'54" E 118.217 meters to corner 42;
 thence N 53°53'16" E 222.003 meters to corner 43;
 thence S 44°45'12" E 58.181 meters to corner 44;
 thence S 43°28'23" W 100.953 meters to corner 45;
 thence S 01°36'34" W 90.91 meters to corner 46;
 thence S 20°36'35" E 74.619 meters to corner 47;
 thence N 51°56'55" E 126.613 meters to corner 48;
 thence N 28°00'34" E 92.655 meters to corner 49;
 thence S 73°56'04" E 87.686 meters to corner 50;
 thence S 39°18'22" W 134.082 meters to corner 51;
 thence S 05°34'43" W 140.322 meters to corner 52;
 thence S 24°06'39" W 91.656 meters to corner 53;
 thence S 35°04'50" E 63.978 meters to corner 54;
 thence S 07°13'05" W 28.595 meters to corner 55;
 thence S 58°16'05" W 38.041 meters to corner 56;
 thence S 41°46'36" E 45.348 meters to corner 57;
 thence S 29°45'32" W 52.541 meters to corner 58;
 thence S 77°13'46" E 106.769 meters to corner 59;
 thence S 10°45'50" W 51.005 meters to corner 60;
 thence N 72°18'20" W 91.154 meters to corner 61;
 thence N 84°47'57" W 185.259 meters to corner 62;
 thence S 33°42'13" E 47.405 meters to corner 63;
 thence S 08°22'24" W 34.556 meters to corner 64;
 thence S 66°47'55" W 51.738 meters to corner 65;
 thence S 15°15'39" E 30.155 meters to corner 66;
 thence S 72°17'43" E 45.392 meters to corner 67;
 thence S 16°30'49" E 65.996 meters to corner 68;
 thence N 71°56'52" E 305.696 meters to corner 69;
 thence S 64°15'23" E 46.121 meters to corner 70;
 thence S 05°59'17" W 93.48 meters to corner 71;
 thence S 67°44'42" W 155.142 meters to corner 72;
 thence S 31°17'41" W 238.303 meters to corner 73;
 thence N 87°55'12" W 93.005 meters to corner 74;
 thence S 41°18'24" W 205.007 meters to corner 75;
 thence S 32°31'50" E 146.851 meters to corner 76;
 thence S 55°57'27" W 180.277 meters to corner 77;
 thence N 34°28'35" W 51.414 meters to corner 78;
 thence S 70°20'17" W 332.222 meters to corner 79;
 thence N 83°46'39" W 97.702 meters to corner 80;

thence N 40°04'28" W 139.307 meters to corner 81;
 thence N 00°04'14" W 134.518 meters to corner 82;
 thence N 31°38'52" E 46.276 meters to corner 83;
 thence N 04°12'59" E 52.226 meters to corner 84;
 thence N 31°17'39" W 144.905 meters to corner 85;
 thence N 89°24'08" W 32.664 meters to corner 86;
 thence S 20°23'47" W 165.802 meters to corner 87;
 thence S 33°37'00" W 106.466 meters to corner 88;
 thence S 00°23'04" W 73.167 meters to corner 89;
 thence S 17°37'19" E 313.036 meters to corner 90;
 thence S 00°38'35" E 235.414 meters to corner 91;
 thence S 18°26'29" W 278.838 meters to corner 92;
 thence S 04°26'12" W 313.294 meters to corner 93;
 thence S 10°28'26" W 208.571 meters to corner 94;
 thence S 19°48'56" E 276.553 meters to corner 95;
 thence S 30°40'17" E 118.091 meters to corner 96;
 thence S 51°24'14" E 311.632 meters to corner 97;
 thence S 36°11'59" E 244.952 meters to corner 98;
 thence S 33°28'23" W 257.057 meters to corner 99;
 thence S 41°14'08" W 189.112 meters to corner 100;
 thence S 18°47'09" W 328.009 meters to corner 101;
 thence S 03°22'32" W 206.729 meters to corner 102;
 thence S 11°00'45" E 188.557 meters to corner 103;
 thence S 13°49'13" W 220.008 meters to corner 104;
 thence S 04°27'19" W 90.33 meters to corner 105;
 thence S 14°52'41" E 187.953 meters to corner 106;
 thence S 00°15'10" W 242.492 meters to corner 107;
 thence S 28°17'02" W 172.667 meters to corner 108;
 thence S 07°34'55" E 119.24 meters to corner 109;
 thence S 05°04'21" W 258.718 meters to corner 110;
 thence S 16°52'30" W 117.177 meters to corner 111;
 thence S 00°17'24" W 424.937 meters to corner 112;
 thence S 22°38'18" E 241.703 meters to corner 113;
 thence S 04°23'33" E 531.764 meters to corner 114;
 thence S 12°26'33" E 140.506 meters to corner 115;
 thence S 27°36'06" E 315.624 meters to corner 116;
 thence S 22°59'24" W 100.255 meters to corner 117;
 thence S 10°15'17" E 176.418 meters to corner 118;
 thence S 41°47'51" E 235.725 meters to corner 119;
 thence S 28°35'15" E 328.741 meters to corner 120;
 thence S 15°53'03" W 102.65 meters to corner 121;
 thence S 60°27'56" E 286.363 meters to corner 122;
 thence S 20°18'00" E 97.066 meters to corner 123;

thence S 00°04'56" E 172.293 meters to corner 124;
 thence S 09°00'29" W 136.272 meters to corner 125;
 thence S 22°15'16" W 317.498 meters to corner 126;
 thence S 33°13'22" E 253.412 meters to corner 127;
 thence S 03°01'20" E 222.628 meters to corner 128;
 thence S 47°21'27" E 261.396 meters to corner 129;
 thence S 34°42'16" E 959.447 meters to corner 130;
 thence S 22°19'58" E 408.252 meters to corner 131;
 thence S 64°19'55" E 96.149 meters to corner 132;
 thence S 34°24'01" E 184.176 meters to corner 133;
 thence S 16°57'05" E 112.918 meters to corner 134;
 thence S 06°06'50" E 100.878 meters to corner 135;
 thence S 79°41'48" E 55.963 meters to corner 136;
 thence S 17°54'43" E 125.614 meters to corner 137;
 thence S 04°51'43" W 166.344 meters to corner 138;
 thence S 14°21'42" W 329.201 meters to corner 139;
 thence N 75°15'19" E 75.903 meters to corner 140;
 thence S 78°17'58" E 193.685 meters to corner 141;
 thence S 67°47'10" E 95.832 meters to corner 142;
 thence S 43°53'13" E 147.093 meters to corner 143;
 thence S 89°06'26" E 102.459 meters to corner 144;
 thence S 42°52'12" E 224.511 meters to corner 145;
 thence S 84°49'20" E 285.727 meters to corner 146;
 thence N 82°55'22" E 520.681 meters to corner 147;
 thence S 62°02'15" E 83.134 meters to corner 148;
 thence N 01°00'06" E 81.988 meters to corner 149;
 thence S 84°52'12" E 166.065 meters to corner 150;
 thence S 33°22'10" W 98.651 meters to corner 151;
 thence S 71°35'59" E 122.002 meters to corner 152;
 thence S 67°18'03" E 130.047 meters to corner 153;
 thence S 59°49'17" E 158.222 meters to corner 154;
 thence S 69°05'46" E 129.948 meters to corner 155;
 thence S 80°04'21" E 137.142 meters to corner 156;
 thence S 53°35'08" E 308.441 meters to corner 157;
 thence S 57°37'42" E 743.72 meters to corner 158;
 thence S 70°23'41" E 194.626 meters to corner 159;
 thence S 52°32'47" E 245.052 meters to corner 160;
 thence N 82°21'21" E 64.037 meters to corner 161;
 thence S 83°49'55" E 243.074 meters to corner 162;
 thence S 63°22'16" E 173.703 meters to corner 163;
 thence S 55°40'55" E 378.828 meters to corner 164;
 thence S 59°58'57" E 542.443 meters to corner 165;
 thence S 71°11'50" E 172.103 meters to corner 166;

thence S 43°29'04" E 985.858 meters to corner 167;
 thence S 29°55'43" E 824.084 meters to corner 168;
 thence S 08°27'17" E 246.033 meters to corner 169;
 thence S 02°10'13" W 321.587 meters to corner 170;
 thence S 06°24'10" E 323.18 meters to corner 171;
 thence S 43°04'01" E 147.819 meters to corner 172;
 thence S 23°50'47" E 214.207 meters to corner 173;
 thence S 44°46'34" E 608.863 meters to corner 174;
 thence S 47°25'23" E 603.611 meters to corner 175;
 thence S 00°19'37" E 374.954 meters to corner 176;
 thence S 35°24'03" E 568.354 meters to corner 177;
 thence S 03°09'23" E 304.86 meters to corner 178;
 thence S 26°22'57" E 887.131 meters to corner 179;
 thence S 01°15'49" W 130.614 meters to corner 180;
 thence S 19°09'31" E 426.929 meters to corner 181;
 thence S 10°17'52" E 253.279 meters to corner 182;
 thence S 26°23'59" E 244.574 meters to corner 183;
 thence S 35°45'57" E 258.546 meters to corner 184;
 thence S 38°39'38" E 1,025.00 meters to corner 185;
 thence S 48°08'50" E 597.224 meters to corner 186;
 thence S 06°32'04" W 382.774 meters to corner 187;
 thence S 49°58'22" E 198.883 meters to corner 188;
 thence S 24°21'54" E 215.65 meters to corner 189;
 thence S 08°45'44" E 186.572 meters to corner 190;
 thence S 11°45'49" W 115.026 meters to corner 191;
 thence S 16°50'14" E 129.021 meters to corner 192;
 thence N 81°28'42" E 109.822 meters to corner 193;
 thence N 43°40'21" E 209.219 meters to corner 194;
 thence S 58°34'21" E 134.519 meters to corner 195;
 thence N 67°37'28" E 495.365 meters to corner 196;
 thence S 72°10'58" E 267.267 meters to corner 197;
 thence S 66°47'23" E 582.103 meters to corner 198;
 thence S 39°38'03" E 754.224 meters to corner 199;
 thence S 20°09'44" E 265.787 meters to corner 200;
 thence S 30°05'03" E 223.661 meters to corner 201;
 thence S 37°11'31" E 584.965 meters to corner 202;
 thence S 22°51'25" E 247.941 meters to corner 203;
 thence S 14°38'17" W 173.667 meters to corner 204;
 thence S 02°08'02" W 137.381 meters to corner 205;
 thence S 17°15'40" W 166.811 meters to corner 206;
 thence S 00°44'04" E 666.684 meters to corner 207;
 thence S 25°08'04" E 378.913 meters to corner 208;
 thence S 11°45'53" E 178.694 meters to corner 209;

thence S 00°23'37" E 214.439 meters to corner 210;
 thence S 23°34'11" E 416.645 meters to corner 211;
 thence S 20°19'21" E 673.47 meters to corner 212;
 thence S 20°02'20" E 317.529 meters to corner 213;
 thence S 10°04'38" E 262.395 meters to corner 214;
 thence S 33°17'55" E 223.993 meters to corner 215;
 thence S 53°23'10" E 409.296 meters to corner 216;
 thence S 59°52'39" E 351.536 meters to corner 217;
 thence S 70°18'27" E 287.18 meters to corner 218;
 thence S 83°34'12" E 152.291 meters to corner 219;
 thence N 75°57'04" E 875.246 meters to corner 220;
 thence S 88°52'18" E 297.941 meters to corner 221;
 thence S 75°06'34" E 299.944 meters to corner 222;
 thence S 87°09'15" E 349.428 meters to corner 223;
 thence N 79°37'16" E 234.439 meters to corner 224;
 thence N 71°30'50" E 322.534 meters to corner 225;
 thence N 60°03'13" E 154.005 meters to corner 226;
 thence N 60°03'12" E 204.739 meters to corner 227;
 thence N 40°24'27" E 391.655 meters to corner 228;
 thence N 27°57'21" E 116.031 meters to corner 229;
 thence N 12°59'16" E 158.341 meters to corner 230;
 thence S 73°55'31" E 39.56 meters to corner 231;
 thence N 16°13'33" E 45.78 meters to corner 232;
 thence S 74°55'16" E 24.323 meters to corner 233;
 thence N 15°50'06" E 56.604 meters to corner 234;
 thence N 74°46'31" W 50.67 meters to corner 235;
 thence N 30°41'15" E 188.786 meters to corner 236;
 thence N 42°06'51" E 450.545 meters to corner 237;
 thence N 52°08'45" E 358.462 meters to corner 238;
 thence N 25°39'48" W 167.571 meters to corner 239;
 thence N 03°14'20" W 587.35 meters to corner 240;
 thence N 18°20'15" W 281.887 meters to corner 241;
 thence N 25°42'45" W 478.349 meters to corner 242;
 thence N 44°33'32" W 112.215 meters to corner 243;
 thence N 78°21'18" W 122.268 meters to corner 244;
 thence N 15°15'35" W 327.82 meters to corner 245;
 thence N 36°24'58" W 334.364 meters to corner 246;
 thence N 25°23'39" W 282.891 meters to corner 247;
 thence N 37°57'56" W 192.559 meters to corner 248;
 thence N 49°08'03" W 426.739 meters to corner 249;
 thence N 17°46'55" W 172.936 meters to corner 250;
 thence N 51°49'54" W 301.722 meters to corner 251;
 thence N 50°04'59" W 168.359 meters to corner 252;

thence N 40°02'44" W 264.084 meters to corner 253;
 thence N 51°29'21" W 213.74 meters to corner 254;
 thence N 42°11'22" W 235.655 meters to corner 255;
 thence N 34°01'06" W 511.723 meters to corner 256;
 thence N 39°03'13" W 294.835 meters to corner 257;
 thence N 13°40'42" W 321.907 meters to corner 258;
 thence N 20°56'25" W 233.741 meters to corner 259;
 thence N 07°20'34" E 162.071 meters to corner 260;
 thence N 35°17'47" E 779.834 meters to corner 261;
 thence N 05°57'47" W 449.988 meters to corner 262;
 thence N 17°49'44" E 416.138 meters to corner 263;
 thence N 28°06'22" E 473.036 meters to corner 264;
 thence N 22°18'26" E 404.767 meters to corner 265;
 thence N 05°56'44" W 242.031 meters to corner 266;
 thence N 41°43'32" W 543.891 meters to corner 267;
 thence N 51°10'24" W 259.236 meters to corner 268;
 thence S 74°30'13" W 69.918 meters to corner 269;
 thence N 68°23'35" W 214.543 meters to corner 270;
 thence N 54°22'02" W 126.149 meters to corner 271;
 thence N 22°24'52" W 263.694 meters to corner 272;
 thence N 43°21'31" W 618.006 meters to corner 273;
 thence N 35°52'23" W 330.152 meters to corner 274;
 thence N 10°59'41" W 173.519 meters to corner 275;
 thence N 26°05'54" W 104.018 meters to corner 276;
 thence N 51°50'55" W 136.392 meters to corner 277;
 thence N 42°43'04" W 135.418 meters to corner 278;
 thence N 14°57'27" W 222.673 meters to corner 279;
 thence N 19°17'07" W 148.358 meters to corner 280;
 thence N 42°08'39" W 106.843 meters to corner 281;
 thence N 58°52'54" W 200.656 meters to corner 282;
 thence N 35°31'04" W 127.41 meters to corner 283;
 thence N 59°06'33" W 162.006 meters to corner 284;
 thence N 35°02'33" W 106.962 meters to corner 285;
 thence N 45°43'24" W 209.869 meters to corner 286;
 thence N 24°01'09" W 732.017 meters to corner 287;
 thence N 01°36'30" W 247.98 meters to corner 288;
 thence N 09°06'39" W 138.59 meters to corner 289;
 thence N 27°39'14" W 203.38 meters to corner 290;
 thence N 52°10'52" W 148.708 meters to corner 291;
 thence N 27°57'42" W 106.454 meters to corner 292;
 thence N 03°05'57" W 118.963 meters to corner 293;
 thence N 34°45'52" W 211.226 meters to corner 294;
 thence N 44°02'31" W 173.857 meters to corner 295;

thence N 19°13'36" W 75.682 meters to corner 296;
 thence S 68°44'57" W 90.101 meters to corner 297;
 thence N 61°44'14" W 126.23 meters to corner 298;
 thence N 42°25'12" W 188.898 meters to corner 299;
 thence N 26°36'40" W 157.139 meters to corner 300;
 thence N 08°14'25" W 191.008 meters to corner 301;
 thence N 19°43'59" E 297.076 meters to corner 302;
 thence N 11°57'43" E 210.078 meters to corner 303;
 thence N 36°55'28" W 624.875 meters to corner 304;
 thence N 17°00'04" W 377.257 meters to corner 305;
 thence N 13°37'41" W 307.779 meters to corner 306;
 thence N 08°53'56" W 483.038 meters to corner 307;
 thence N 06°46'32" E 135.916 meters to corner 308;
 thence N 27°26'11" W 382.682 meters to corner 309;
 thence N 20°41'14" W 190.601 meters to corner 310;
 thence N 34°46'17" W 175.767 meters to corner 311;
 thence N 54°28'11" W 233.169 meters to corner 312;
 thence N 33°15'13" W 174.873 meters to corner 313;
 thence N 03°05'21" E 292.23 meters to corner 314;
 thence N 11°27'17" E 293.428 meters to corner 315;
 thence N 06°06'36" W 139.809 meters to corner 316;
 thence N 30°19'38" W 443.735 meters to corner 317;
 thence N 46°27'52" W 259.738 meters to corner 318;
 thence N 34°16'08" W 274.784 meters to corner 319;
 thence N 54°22'29" W 397.36 meters to corner 320;
 thence N 33°09'02" W 692.286 meters to corner 321;
 thence N 24°22'00" E 115.695 meters to corner 322;
 thence N 09°41'34" W 228.344 meters to corner 323;
 thence N 16°16'24" W 358.159 meters to corner 324;
 thence N 38°19'32" W 409.278 meters to corner 325;
 thence N 30°48'58" W 309.227 meters to corner 326;
 thence N 06°35'46" W 254.744 meters to corner 327;
 thence N 04°24'35" E 391.524 meters to corner 328;
 thence N 08°27'45" W 308.544 meters to corner 329;
 thence N 17°38'24" W 359.095 meters to corner 330;
 thence N 56°51'25" W 287.538 meters to corner 331;
 thence N 19°57'06" W 281.208 meters to corner 332;
 thence N 01°33'42" W 188.016 meters to corner 333;
 thence N 21°07'36" W 229.688 meters to corner 334;
 thence N 03°41'40" W 144.044 meters to corner 335;
 thence N 09°09'53" E 141.545 meters to corner 336;
 thence N 17°59'04" W 74.138 meters to corner 337;
 thence N 58°00'01" W 79.267 meters to corner 338;

thence S 88°02'16" W 242.043 meters to corner 339;
 thence S 73°07'12" W 140.417 meters to corner 340;
 thence S 89°38'18" W 118.939 meters to corner 341;
 thence S 65°57'13" W 294.985 meters to corner 342;
 thence S 86°01'10" W 266.057 meters to corner 343;
 thence N 60°56'44" W 217.613 meters to corner 344;
 thence N 65°24'15" W 460.529 meters to corner 345;
 thence N 77°02'15" W 202.059 meters to corner 346;
 thence S 86°51'05" W 360.914 meters to corner 347;
 thence N 78°14'35" W 262.003 meters to corner 348;
 thence N 65°11'43" W 192.607 meters to corner 349;
 thence N 53°13'04" W 193.259 meters to corner 350;
 thence N 42°43'53" W 379.223 meters to corner 351;
 thence N 65°40'32" W 249.96 meters to corner 352;
 thence S 77°04'59" W 377.052 meters to corner 353;
 thence S 89°28'40" W 356.391 meters to corner 354;
 thence S 78°51'04" W 241.599 meters to corner 355;
 thence S 74°53'23" W 658.63 meters to corner 356;
 thence N 75°38'51" W 348.538 meters to corner 357;
 thence N 54°07'05" W 350.616 meters to corner 358;
 thence N 43°58'17" W 316.341 meters to corner 359;
 thence N 68°56'07" W 223.374 meters to corner 360;
 thence N 51°17'55" W 557.781 meters to corner 361;
 thence N 41°05'09" W 792.08 meters to corner 362;
 thence N 34°14'37" W 413.754 meters to corner 363;
 thence N 61°02'30" W 384.736 meters to corner 364;
 thence N 56°50'01" W 360.666 meters to corner 365;
 thence N 46°43'45" W 475.454 meters to corner 366;
 thence N 67°03'42" W 259.747 meters to corner 367;
 thence N 49°37'15" W 143.462 meters to corner 368;
 thence N 38°09'48" W 471.388 meters to corner 1,

from the point of beginning containing an area of sixty-one thousand two hundred four (61,204) hectares, more or less. Bearings and distances of lines were derived using the PRS 1992 Philippine Zone V coordinate system, subject to actual ground demarcation. The geographic coordinates of the control monument "LYS-7" are based on re-observed data.

The Certification from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) containing the boundaries and technical descriptions of the PIPS is hereby adopted and made an integral part of this Act. In case of inconsistency, the boundaries and technical descriptions in the attached Certification shall prevail.

Any modification of the scope and coverage of the PIPS in this Act shall be made through an act of Congress, after consultation with the government agencies and stakeholders concerned.

SEC. 5. *Establishment of Buffer Zones.* – The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), upon 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 zones would cover private lands, the owners thereof shall be required to design their development with due consideration to the PIPS management plan.

SEC. 6. *Strict Protection Zone.* – An area declared in accordance with the PIPS management plan, possessing some outstanding ecosystem, features, and species of flora and fauna of national scientific importance should be maintained to protect and to preserve nature in its undisturbed state and to preserve ecologically representative examples of the natural environment to ensure their availability for scientific study, environmental monitoring, education, and for the maintenance of genetic resources in a dynamic and evolutionary state.

ARTICLE II

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

SEC. 7. *Protected Area Management Board.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, a 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, as Chairperson;

(b) Governor of the Province of Southern Leyte where the PIPS is located or a duly designated representative;

(c) Senators of the Republic of the Philippines who are duly registered residents of the city or province where the PIPS is located or a duly authorized representative, unless the Senators decline membership in the PAMB;

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

(e) Mayors of the Municipalities of Liloan, San Francisco, Pintuyan, and San Ricardo where the PIPS is located or their duly designated representatives;

(f) Chairpersons of the barangays where the PIPS is located;

(g) Regional Executive Directors of the following government agencies: 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), and Department of Tourism (DOT);

(h) Three (3) representatives from either NGOs or people's organizations (POs), duly accredited both by the DENR and the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte. The NGOs or POs represented should have been in existence for at least five (5) years and with track record in or related to protected area management;

(i) At least one (1) but not more than three (3) representatives from all the indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) present in the area and recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);

(j) One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a university or college in the Province of Southern Leyte where the PIPS is located, with proven track record in or related to the protected area management; and

(k) One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of the Province of Southern Leyte where the PIPS is located, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to PIPS management.

The terms of office of PAMB members, 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 PIPS;
- (b) Approve policies, plans and programs, proposals, agreements, and other related documents for the management of the PIPS;
- (c) Approve the management plan of the PIPS and ensure its harmonization and integration with the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP), land use and other development plans, public or private, and its implementation;
- (d) Adopt a manual of operations to include rules of procedure 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 PIPS;
- (f) Allocate financial resources for the implementation of the management plan and manage the Protected Area-Retained Income Account (PA-RIA) and other funds in accordance with the accounting and budgeting rules and regulations;
- (g) Set fees and charges in accordance with the 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 governing authorities including the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which shall perform its mandate of regulating speed limit of all vessels plying the waters around PIPS to protect large marine animal species, including *tiki tiki* or whale sharks and other wildlife from injury, disturbance, and death, especially in their migratory pathway, critical feeding, and resting areas;

(j) Monitor and assess the performance of the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) and other PIPS 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 the designation or appointment of the PASu from a shortlist of qualified candidates; and

(l) Assess the effectiveness of the management of the PIPS: *Provided*, That the members of the management board representing the LGUs and national agencies in the PAMB 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 its implementing rules and regulations 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 Executive 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.* – 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 PIPS.

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 PIPS 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 PIPS, 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 PIPS;

(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 PIPS;

(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 PIPS: *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 PIPS 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. *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 the projects and sustaining the operations of the PIPS and the NIPAS. All income generated from the operation and

management of the PIPS shall accrue to the PIPS-IPAF. The income shall be derived from fees and charges from the use of resources and facilities of the PIPS, 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 in the PA-RIA in any authorized government depository bank within the locality: *Provided*, That disbursement out of such deposits shall be used solely for the protection, maintenance, administration, and management of the PIPS 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 programs and projects of the NIPAS.

The PIPS-IPAF may be augmented by grants, donations, and 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 disbursement 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 for business permits, property tax, and rentals of LGUs' facilities.

ARTICLE IV

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

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

SEC. 12. *Supplementary Application of the NIPAS Law.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, shall have supplementary 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 Municipalities of Liloan, San Francisco, Pintuyan, and San Ricardo, the Provincial Government 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 provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.


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


Approved,


FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ
Speaker of the House
of Representatives


FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO
President of the Senate

This Act was passed by the Senate of the Philippines as Senate Bill No. 2617 on December 16, 2024 and adopted by the House of Representatives as an amendment to House Bill No. 9396 on February 4, 2025.


REGINALD S. VELASCO
*Secretary General
House of Representatives*


RENATO N. BANTUG JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Approved: **AUG 29 2025**


FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.
President of the Philippines

