



Republic of the Philippines
(Republic Act No. 7611)

PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Excerpts from the Minutes of the 239th PCSD Regular Meeting
Governor's Conference Room, 2/F Capitol Complex
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
December 15, 2017

Present:

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| 1. Gov. Jose Ch. Alvarez, Provincial Governor | Chairperson |
| 2. Vice Gov. V. Dennis M. Socrates, Sangguniang Panlalawigan | Vice Chair |
| 3. Dir. Nelson P. Devanadera, Executive Director, PCSDS | Secretary |
| 4. BM. Dennis M. Sabando, President, Liga ng mga Barangay | Member |
| 5. Atty. Jansen I. Jontila, NGO Representative | Member |
| 6. LTGEN Rozzano D Briguez, Commander, WESCOM | Member |
| 7. Mr. Bobby L. Castro, Representative, Business Sector | Member |

Represented by:

- | | |
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| 8. DDG Adoracion M. Navarro Deputy Director General, NEDA | Member |
| Represented by RD Bernardino Atienza | |
| 9. Usec. Ariel T. Cayanan, Undersecretary, DA, | Member |
| Represented by Dir. Louella Rowena J. Lorenzana | |
| 10. Mayor Lucilo R. Bayron, Mayor of Puerto Princesa City | Member |
| Represented by Atty. Carlo Gomez | |
| 11. Hon. Lucena D. Demaala, Pres., League of Municipalities | Member |
| Represented by Mayor Mary Jean D. Feliciano | |

Absent:

- | | |
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| 12. Usec. Juan Miguel Miguel T. Cuna, Undersecretary, DENR | Member |
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PCSD RESOLUTION NO. 17-610

“ENDORING THE NOMINATION OF THE MT. MANTALINGAHAN PROTECTED LANDSCAPE (MMPL) SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BATARAZA, BROOKE’S POINT, SOFRONIO ESPAÑOLA, QUEZON AND RIZAL, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FOR INCLUSION IN UNESCO’S WORLD HERITAGE LIST”

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7611, otherwise known as the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan, took effect on 19 June 1992 section 6 of which provides that the SEP shall serve as the framework to guide the government agencies concerned in the formulation of plans, programs and projects affecting the environment and natural resources of Palawan;

Vision: Palawan, an innovative and dynamic global center of sustainable development

Mission: PCSDS as the driver of environmental conservation and inclusive development in Palawan, a biosphere reserve and science-for-sustainability site, guided by the Strategic Environmental Plan

HEAD OFFICE:

PCSD Building, Sports Complex Road
Santa Monica Heights, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines
☎ (+6348) 434-4235 Trunkline • (+6348) 434-4234 Telefax

METRO MANILA LIAISON OFFICE:

PCSDS Biodiversity & Management Bureau Compound
North Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines
☎ (+632) 376-2061 / (+632) 376-2775

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the SEP Law which provides for the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) Philosophy states that the SEP shall have as its general philosophy, the sustainable development of Palawan, which is the improvement in the quality of life of its people in the present and future generations through the use of complementary activities of development and conservation that protect life-support ecosystem and rehabilitate exploited areas to allow upcoming generations to sustain development growth;

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the same law which provides for the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) states that the SEP shall establish a graded system of protection and development control over the whole of Palawan, including its tribal lands, forest, mines, agricultural areas, settlement areas, small islands mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds and the surrounding sea. This shall be known as the Environmentally Critical Areas Network, hereinafter referred to as ECAN, and shall serve as the main strategy of the SEP;

WHEREAS, the areas covered by the ECAN shall be classified into three (3) main components namely: (1) Terrestrial: which consists of the mountainous as well as ecologically low hills and lowlands areas of the whole province. It may be further subdivided into smaller management components; (2) Coastal/marine area: this area includes the whole coastline up to the sea. This is characterized by active fisheries and tourism activities; (3) Tribal Ancestral lands: these lands are the areas traditionally occupied by the cultural communities;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the same law provides that the governance, implementation and policy direction of the SEP for Palawan Act shall be exercised by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD);

WHEREAS, Section 19 (10) and (11) of the same law which provides for the powers and functions of the Council provides that in order to successfully implement the provisions of this Act, the Council is hereby vested with the powers and functions to perform related functions which shall promote the development, conservation, management, protection, and utilization of the natural resources of Palawan and to perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary in carrying out its functions, powers, and the provisions of the SEP Law;

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2009, Mt. Mantalingahan Mountain Range was declared as protected area by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 1815, entitled "Designating Mt. Mantalingahan Mountain Range Situated in the Municipalities of Bataraza, Brooke's Point, Sofronio Española, Quezon and Rizal, All in the Province Of Palawan as Protected Landscape Area Pursuant to R.A. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992" signed by Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo under the category of protected landscape;

WHEREAS, MMPL represents a complete set of relatively intact mountain ecosystems in Palawan biogeographic region. Being in the island of Palawan, its position represents a bridge between the Sunda Shelf and Philippine bioregions and contains floral elements from both as well as its own unique elements;

WHEREAS, with a total area of 120,457 hectares, as stated in the above-mentioned proclamation, the size of MMPL is adequate to ensure the integrity of the ecological processes in this largely forested mountain range which is critical for maintaining biodiversity and providing various ecosystem services that benefits the local communities;

WHEREAS, as a key biodiversity area, MMPL hosts a diversity of plants and animals. representing a significant contribution to the known pool of global biodiversity;

WHEREAS, in view of the outstanding universal value of MMPL's exceptionally high floral and faunal diversity and endemism, the same has been on the UNESCO World Heritage Site tentative list since 2015;

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2017, the Philippines, through the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO (PH NatCom) nominated MMPL under Criterion ix: "*outstanding example representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes*" and Criterion x: "*contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation*" for inclusion in the World Heritage List;

WHEREAS, a letter from the MMPL protected area superintendent dated December 7, 2017 requesting for the endorsement of the above-said nomination was received by the PCSD Executive Director;

WHEREAS, in today's meeting, the Council deemed it appropriate to endorse the nomination of Mt. Mantalingahan Mountain Range situated in the Municipalities of Bataraza, Brooke's Point, Sofronio Española, Quezon and Rizal, all in the province of Palawan for inclusion in the World Heritage List;

WHEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises and on motion duly seconded, the Council resolves as it is hereby resolved, favorably ENDORSING the nomination of Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL) situated in the Municipalities of Bataraza, Brooke's Point, Sofronio Española, Quezon and Rizal, all in the province of Palawan for inclusion in UNESCO'S World Heritage List;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this resolution be furnished to the MMPL-PAMB, and other concerned agencies for their information and guidance;

RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of December 2017 in Puerto Princesa City, Philippines.

I hereby certify that the above-quoted resolution has been duly adopted by the PCSD on the 15th day of December 2017 in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.


NELSON P. DEVANADERA
Secretary

ATTESTED BY:


VICTORINO DENNIS M. SOCRATES
Presiding Officer, Vice-Chair