Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session  

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. __________

Submitted by the Committees on Natural Resources and Appropriations on May 12, 2021
Re: House Bill No. __________

Recommending its approval, in substitution of House Bill No. 6557
Sponsors: Representatives Solomon R. Chungalao, Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr., and Eric Go Yap

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Natural Resources and Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 6557, introduced by Representative Solomon R. Chungalao, entitled:

“AN ACT
DECLARING THE MT. PULAG PROTECTED LANDSCAPE IN SOME PORTIONS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF KABAYAN, BOKOD AND BUGUIAS, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET; PORTIONS OF TINOC, IFUGAO; AND KAYAPA, NUEVA VIZCAYA AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. __________
entitled:

“AN ACT
DECLARING A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF KABAYAN, BOKOD AND BUGUIAS, IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET, IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINOC, PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAYAPA IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, A PROTECTED AREA, WITH THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS), TO BE REFERRED TO AS THE MT. PULAG PROTECTED LANDSCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 6557, with Representatives Chungalao, Barzaga, and Yap (E.) as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

REP. ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

REP. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Natural Resources

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
House of Representatives
Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE BILL NO. 9325  
(in substitution of House Bill No. 6557)  

Introduced by Representatives Solomon R. Chungalao,  
Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr. and Eric Go Yap  

“AN ACT  
DECLARING A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE  
MUNICIPALITIES OF KABAYAN, BOKOD AND BUGUIAS, IN THE  
PROVINCE OF BENGUET, IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINOC,  
PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAYAPA  
IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, A PROTECTED AREA,  
WITH THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE UNDER  
THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM  
(NIPAS), TO BE REFERRED TO AS THE MT. PULAG PROTECTED  
LANDSCAPE, 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. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Mt. Pulag Protected  
Landscape 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 Mt. Pulag, as well as their aesthetic and ecological importance, a parcel of land located in the Municipalities of Kabayan, Bokod and Buguias, in the Province of Benguet, Municipality of Tinoc, in the Province of Ifugao, and Municipality of Kayapa, in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, is hereby declared a protected area with the category of protected landscape, and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape (MPPL). 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 landscape refers to an area where the interaction of people and
nature over a period of time has produced an area of distinct character with
significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value and where the
safeguarding of the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and
sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values;
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 a National Park. – The MPPL is comprised of
a parcel of land of the public domain situated in the Municipalities of Kabayan,
Bokod and Baguias, in the Province of Benguet, Municipality of Tinoc, in the
Province of Ifugao, and Municipality of Kayapa, in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya.
All lands of the public domain within the coverage and scope of the MPPL shall
fall under the classification of national park as provided for in Article XII, Section
3 of the Constitution.

SEC. 5. Scope and Coverage. – The boundaries of the MPPL are more
particularly described as the area beginning at a point marked “1” on plan, which
is S 75° 34’ 16” E, 1,342.652 meters from BBM No. 07 with geographic coordinates
of 16° 36’ 28.09490491” Latitude and 120° 50’ 26.02534396” Longitude located at
Barangay Duacan, Municipality of Kabayan, Province of Benguet,

thence N 26°02’04” E 4,333.50 meters to corner 2;
thence N 13°11’24” E 3,330.69 meters to corner 3;
thence N 26°21’52” W 887.241 meters to corner 4;
thence N 30°06’56” W 3930.35 meters to corner 5;
thence S 81°22'11" E 113.284 meters to corner 6;
thence S 22°49'03" E 157.302 meters to corner 7;
thence N 70°05'51" E 185.055 meters to corner 8;
thence S 68°56'36" E 200.383 meters to corner 9;
thence N 77°29'44" E 263.248 meters to corner 10;
thence N 82°59'16" E 1900.24 meters to corner 11;
thence S 69°55'33" E 1,911.13 meters to corner 12;
thence S 46°37'44" E 2,839.42 meters to corner 13;
thence S 20°49'59" E 2,238.22 meters to corner 14;
thence S 19°51'23" E 76.547 meters to corner 15;
thence S 66°15'07" E 54.626 meters to corner 16;
thence S 26°45'32" E 133.265 meters to corner 17;
thence S 13°23'36" W 43.172 meters to corner 18;
thence S 36°15'21" E 446.412 meters to corner 19;
thence S 78°59'50" E 36.675 meters to corner 20;
thence S 12°44'46" E 86.118 meters to corner 21;
thence S 40°32'05" E 90.783 meters to corner 22;
thence S 57°05'48" E 40.497 meters to corner 23;
thence S 10°50'28" E 47.851 meters to corner 24;
thence S 73°41'34" E 238.602 meters to corner 25;
thence S 10°05'54" E 74.145 meters to corner 26;
thence N 85°05'35" E 198.731 meters to corner 27;
thence S 71°33'58" E 75.895 meters to corner 28;
thence N 24°35'30" E 64.882 meters to corner 29;
thence S 83°57'23" E 170.953 meters to corner 30;
thence N 43°19'02" E 144.309 meters to corner 31;
thence N 75°04'11" E 124.195 meters to corner 32;
thence S 21°35'48" E 154.864 meters to corner 33;
thence S 46°41'12" E 48.103 meters to corner 34;
thence S 68°39'20" E 93.408 meters to corner 35;
thence S 07°28'20" E 61.519 meters to corner 36;
thence S 36°06'41" W 256.214 meters to corner 37;
thence S 09°27’47” W 109.484 meters to corner 38;
thence N 85°56’27” W 155.392 meters to corner 39;
thence S 38°07’02” W 230.048 meters to corner 40;
thence S 35°52’04” E 182.622 meters to corner 41;
thence S 61°20’59” W 110.535 meters to corner 42;
thence S 03°22’00” E 170.285 meters to corner 43;
thence S 17°31’03” E 2,209.35 meters to corner 44;
thence N 19°04’31” W 4,394.05 meters to corner 45;
thence N 69°07’20” E 103.818 meters to corner 46;
thence N 41°51’42” E 567.938 meters to corner 47;
thence S 75°35’56” E 270.378 meters to corner 48;
thence N 58°13’08” E 262.478 meters to corner 49;
thence S 62°51’17” E 440.528 meters to corner 50;
thence S 75°07’10” E 147.964 meters to corner 51;
thence N 84°19’48” E 141.695 meters to corner 52;
thence S 26°57’38” E 3697.21 meters to corner 53;
thence S 03°41’00” W 2,241.51 meters to corner 54;
thence S 42°19’10” W 528.775 meters to corner 55;
thence S 20°14’15” W 251.514 meters to corner 56;
thence N 80°42’25” W 4018.8 meters to corner 58;
thence N 36°22’57” W 1,589.96 meters to corner 59;
thence N 36°03’09” W 909.065 meters to corner 60;
thence N 36°52’15” W 1,334.81 meters to corner 61;
thence N 15°03’51” E 2381.72 meters to corner 62;
thence N 18°28’8” W 1,104.85 meters to corner 63;
thence N 83°38’31” W 1,390.57 meters to corner 1,

and comprises eleven thousand five hundred eighty and 35/100 (11,580.35) hectares, more or less.

**SEC. 6. Establishment of Buffer Zones.** – The DENR Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) created under Section 7 of this Act, may designate areas surrounding the MPPL 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 MECHANISMS

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 MPPL. The PAMB shall be composed of the following:

a. DENR Regional Directors for Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) and Region II, as Chairpersons;

b. Governors of the Provinces of Benguet, Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya or their duly authorized representatives;

c. Senators of the Republic of the Philippines who are duly registered residents of the Provinces of Benguet, Ifugao or Nueva Vizcaya, or their duly designated representatives, unless the Senators decline the membership in the PAMB;

d. District Representatives of the Congressional Districts where the MPPL is located, or their duly designated representatives, unless the District Representatives decline the membership in the PAMB;

e. Mayors of the Municipalities of Kabayan, Bokod and Buguias, in the Province of Benguet, Municipality of Tinoc, in the Province of Ifugao, and Municipality of Kayapa, in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, or their duly authorized representatives;

f. Chairpersons of the all the barangays with territorial jurisdiction over the MPPL;

g. Regional Directors of the following government agencies, namely: the Department of Agriculture (DA), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Department of National Defense (DND);
h. Three (3) representatives from either NGOs or people’s organizations (PO), based in the Province of Benguet, Ifugao or Nueva Vizcaya, duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial government. The NGO or PO 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 (1) but not more than three (3) representatives from all the ICC/IP 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 Benguet, Ifugao, or Nueva Vizcaya, with a record of accomplishments in or related to protected area management; and

k. One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of the Province of Benguet, Ifugao, or Nueva Vizcaya, 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. 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 MPPL;

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 MPPL;

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 Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) who shall supervise the day to day management, protection, and administration of the MPPL. 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 MPPL. 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 Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape Fund. – There is hereby
established a trust fund to be known as the Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape Fund
for purposes of financing projects of the MPPL and the NIPAS. All income
generated from the operation and management of wild flora and fauna in the
MPPL shall accrue to the fund. The income shall be derived from fees from
permitted sale and export of flora and fauna and other resources from the MPPL,
proceeds from lease of multiple-use areas, contributions from industries and
facilities directly benefiting from the MPPL, and such other fees and income
derived from the operation of the MPPL.

The PAMB shall retain seventy-five percent (75%) of all revenues raised
through the above means, which shall be deposited in 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 programs
and 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 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 Municipalities of Kabayan, Bokod
and Buguias, in the Province of Benguet, the Municipality of Tinoc, in the Province
of Ifugao, and Municipality of Kayapa, in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, the
provincial governments of Benguet, Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya, 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 with the 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,