



# Sangguniang Panlalawigan

BATAAN CAPITOL, BALANGA CITY



**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 130<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR  
SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF BATAAN  
ON MARCH 10, 2025 HELD AT THE SAKURA RESTAURANT,  
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE**

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Antonino B. Roman III, J.D., LL.M., Acting Vice Governor and  
Presiding Officer

**FIRST DISTRICT:**

Hon. Benjamin C. Serrano, Jr., Board Member  
Hon. Jomar L. Gaza J.D., Board Member

**SECOND DISTRICT:**

Hon. Maria Margarita R. Roque, Board Member  
Hon. Manuel N. Beltran, Board Member  
Hon. Noel Joseph L. Valdecañas, Board Member

**THIRD DISTRICT:**

Hon. Romano L. Del Rosario, Board Member  
Hon. Jorge S. Estanislao, M.D., Board Member  
Hon. Angelito M. Sunga, Board Member  
Hon. Roman Harold R. Espeleta, Board Member

Hon. Romeo A. Austria, Board Member (FABC President)  
Hon. Lovely Joy A. Poblete, Board Member (SKF President)  
Hon. Feliciano G. Magay, Jr., Board Member (IPMR)

**ABSENT:**

Hon. Jovy Z. Banzon, Board Member (PCL President) (On Leave)

**PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 03**

Series of 2025

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NETWORK OF LOCAL  
COASTAL GREENBELT ZONES IN THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN.**

**SPONSORED BY:**

HON. MANUEL N. BELTRAN

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the state to ensure the sustainable use, development, management, protection, and conservation of the country's environment, natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations and to conserve the country's wildlife resources and their habitat for sustainability;

**WHEREAS**, in the advent of climate change, scientific findings show that mangroves and beach forest species not only hold tremendous potential for greenhouse gas sequestration and carbon storage, but also provide cost-effective coastal defense services, thereby potentially reducing the impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property;

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**"EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICE TOWARDS A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL"**

**WHEREAS**, mangroves are still under serious threat and are being cleared at an alarming rate, despite the ecosystem services they provide. The loss of mangroves due to coastal development projects like land reclamation, deforestation for fuel, and aquaculture accounts for about half of the total loss of mangroves in the country;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act 10121, otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, mandates Local Government Units (LGUs) to identify and implement cost-effective risk reduction measures and strategies;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 9729, the Climate Change Act of 2009, as amended by Republic Act No. 10174, mandates the implementation of comprehensive climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, explicitly emphasizing nature-based solutions such as coastal greenbelt rehabilitation, protection, and management as critical strategies for enhancing resilience and mitigating climate change impacts in vulnerable coastal area;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the General Welfare Clause under Section 16 and Section 17 (b) of Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the Local Government Code of 1991, LGUs are empowered to establish greenbelts and pass ordinances for their establishment with support from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional offices;

**WHEREAS**, as Coastal Greenbelt Zones, mangroves and associated beach forest species are preserved and allowed to expand naturally and through mangrove rehabilitation, as they are designed to serve as nursery grounds for fish, prawns, crabs, and other invertebrates, as feeding grounds for adult fish, roosting and feeding areas for birds, and shoreline protection, among others;

**WHEREAS**, the Province of Bataan presently has a total of 262.61 hectares of mangroves, more or less, based on the survey conducted by National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) in 2020 and validation conducted by Wetlands International Philippines in 2024, specifically located in the coastal municipalities of Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay, Mariveles, Pilar, Orion, Limay, and Balanga City;

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the importance of mangroves and coastal forests to coastal resilience and livelihoods, it is important to optimize the protection and rehabilitation of the mangrove forests and set these aside as Coastal Greenbelt Zones for effective enforcement, incentive, and monitoring mechanisms;

**WHEREAS**, in line with the thrust of the present administration to prioritize disaster risk mitigation through sound management of natural resources and sustainable development of coastal areas, establishing a network of local coastal greenbelt zones composed of mangrove and beach forest species will optimize the management of existing local conservation areas and mangrove reserves for effective preservation, protection, rehabilitation, enforcement, and monitoring activities;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it ordained as it is hereby ordained by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Bataan, in session assembled, that:

**SECTION 1. TITLE.** - This ordinance shall be known as the "Coastal Greenbelt Network Ordinance of the Province of Bataan" and shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Ordinance".

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**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** - It is the policy of the Provincial Government of Bataan (PGB) to protect the general welfare and the people's right to a balanced and healthful ecology by designating coastal greenbelt zones with mangroves and beach forest species that play an important role in fisheries production, climate stabilization, blue carbon storage and sequestration, and in mitigating the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property. More than that, the PGB aims to do the following:

1. Develop and promote a local coastal greenbelt management action plan which adopts the precautionary principle, ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation approach, and science-based approach in the planning, conservation, rehabilitation, and management of coastal greenbelt zones;
2. Engage and encourage the full and active participation of civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector, youth and academic volunteers in the planning, adoption, and implementation of the local coastal greenbelt action plan; and
3. Provide appropriate support and sustainable financing mechanisms to fully support the protection, maintenance, administration, and regulation of the coastal greenbelt zones in the province.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.** - The following words and phrases, when used in this Ordinance, shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

a. **ABANDONED, UNDERUTILIZED, AND UNDEVELOPED (AUU) FISHPOND:**

i. **Abandoned fishpond** - refers to public land released for fishpond development where there is no occupation, possession or operational activity by the lessee or any of his or her lawful representative as manifested by any of, but not limited to, the following conditions: (1) failure by the lessee to submit to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) within ten (10) days after six (6) months from the approval of the lease the required initial report under oath relative to the fishpond development, operation and production, duly verified by the concerned Regional Director of BFAR or his or her authorized representative; (2) subleasing; or, (3) where there is absence of clear indication of fish production operations in the area;

ii. **Underutilized fishpond** - refers to public land released for fishpond development where the fishpond area or portion thereof is not producing in commercial scale within three (3) years from the approval of the Aquasilviculture Stewardship Contract (ASC) or Foreshore Lease Agreement (FLA), or not fully developed and producing in commercial scale within five (5) years as reflected in either (1) the submitted annual report on fishpond development, operation and production, under oath by the ASC holder or lessee and duly verified by the concerned Regional Office; or (2) as deduced from the information supplied in the Reports on Inspection and Verification, submitted by authorized representatives and duly endorsed by the Regional Director concerned, evidencing that such portion or the whole fishpond area is not producing on a commercial scale;

iii. **Undeveloped fishpond area** - refers to public land released for

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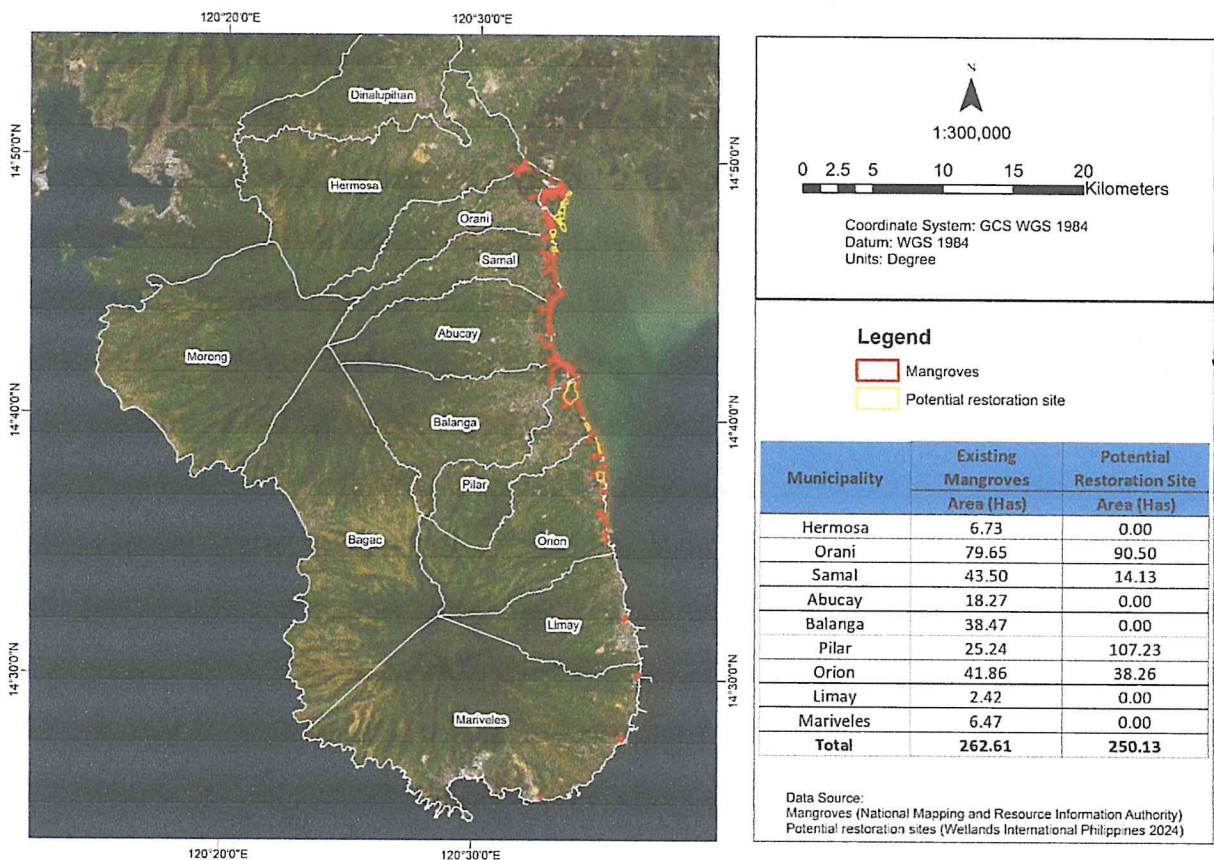
fishpond development where the fishpond area is not enclosed by dikes; or enclosed by dikes but without functional water control structures; or enclosed by dikes with functional water control structures but the water level required for production on a commercial scale cannot be maintained either by high tides or by pumping; or a larger area enclosed only with a simple perimeter dike that has not been subdivided, which may or may not be vegetated with mangrove species.

- b. **BEACH FOREST** - refers to a narrow strip of woodland along the sandy and gravelly beaches of the seacoast dominated by *Terminalia catappa*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Acacia farnesiana* and *Erythrina orientalis*.
- c. **COASTAL GREENBELT ZONE** - refers to specific strips of natural or artificially created coastal vegetation, stretching at least one hundred (100) meters in width, whenever applicable, from the sea towards land, composed primarily of mangrove and beach forest species, designed to prevent coastal erosion and mitigate the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives, livelihoods, and properties.
- d. **COASTAL ZONE** - refers to a band of dry land and adjacent ocean space water and submerged land in which terrestrial processes and uses directly affect oceanic processes and uses, and vice versa; its geographic extent may include areas within a landmark limit of one (1) kilometer from the shoreline at high tide to include mangrove swamps, brackish water ponds, nipa swamps, estuarine rivers, sandy beaches, and other areas within a seaward limit of 200 meters isobath to include coral reefs, algal flats, seagrass beds, and other soft-bottom areas.
- e. **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs)** - refer to non-state actors whose aims are neither to generate profits nor to seek governing power. CSOs unite people to advance shared goals and interests. They have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, and are based on ethical, cultural, scientific, religious, and philanthropic considerations. CSOs include non-government organizations (NGOs), professional associations, foundations, independent research institutes, and community-based organizations.
- f. **DESIGNATED AREAS** - refer to site-specific stretches of vegetation in the coastal zone, defined in relation to risk factors and vulnerability to coastal hazards, and reserved for protection and maintenance under the Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan. The area may undergo rehabilitation with locally appropriate species. Designated areas with abandoned fishponds require the reversion of these fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species.
- g. **LOCAL COASTAL GREENBELT MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (LCGMAP)** - refers to the local action plan, which contains the specific goals and targets for the implementation of the program establishing local coastal greenbelt zones in the province.
- h. **MANGROVES** - refer to a community of intertidal plants including all species of trees, shrubs, vines, and herbs found on coasts, swamps, or the border of swamps.

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**SECTION 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF NETWORK OF LOCAL COASTAL GREENBELT ZONES.** - The approximately 512.74 hectares of mangrove forests and potential restoration sites in the coastal zones along Manila Bay are hereby declared part of the Network of Local Coastal Greenbelt Zones of the Province of Bataan:



**SECTION 5. FUTURE LOCAL COASTAL GREENBELT ZONES.** - Coastal areas contiguous to the areas covered in Section 4 of this Ordinance, which will be declared later on, shall be delineated and automatically designated as Local Coastal Greenbelt Zones of the Province of Bataan under this Ordinance.

**SECTION 6. PROVINCIAL COASTAL GREENBELT NETWORK COMMITTEE (PCGNC).** - For the purpose of managing the network of coastal greenbelt zones and in implementing the coastal greenbelt zone plan, there is a need to create a Provincial Coastal Greenbelt Network Committee, which shall be composed of the following:

- a. Provincial Governor as the Chairperson;
- b. Mayors of Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay, Mariveles, Pilar, Orion, Limay, and Balanga City;
- c. Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator;
- d. Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources Officer;
- e. Provincial Agriculturist;
- f. Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer;
- g. Provincial Tourism Officer;
- h. Provincial Engineer;
- i. Chairman, Provincial Council of Leaders;
- j. Representative – DENR Bataan;
- k. Representative – DA-BFAR Bataan;
- l. Representatives – DPWH 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> District Engineering Offices;
- m. Representative – DHSUD Region 3;

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- n. A representative from an academic institution who is an expert in mangrove and beach forest ecosystems, oceanography, or other related disciplines, preferably based locally;
- o. A representative from the private sector;
- p. A representative from a civil society organization;
- q. A representative from a youth or women organization.

The Office of the Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Officer (OPG-ENRO) shall serve as the Secretariat and direct implementer of the management interventions relative to the coastal greenbelt zone. It shall fully document the proceedings in every meeting and furnish a copy of the same to each member not later than 5 working days after each meeting held.

**SECTION 7. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PCGNC.** - The PCGNC shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Coordinate and facilitate the management of the designated local coastal greenbelt zones;
- b. Identify and designate additional areas to form part of the Network of Local Coastal Greenbelt Zones;
- c. Prepare and implement the Provincial Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (PCGMAP);
- d. Lead in the actual implementation of rehabilitation, including the reversion of AUU Fishponds, in the coastal barangays and municipalities;
- e. Oversee and undertake continuous monitoring and adaptive management of the implementation of LCGMAP;
- f. Convene and organize quarterly meetings;
- g. Recommend policies relating to the enforcement of the Ordinance and/or identification and designation of additional coastal greenbelt zones;
- h. Provide component municipalities with technical assistance and other capacity-building programs to enhance their capability in coastal greenbelt protection, rehabilitation and management;
- i. Develop and implement a sustainable financing strategy to support long-term management and conservation of the coastal greenbelt network;
- j. Coordinate with national agencies and other local government units to ensure alignment of local coastal greenbelt management with broader regional and national coastal management strategies;
- k. Establish partnerships and collaborations with academic institutions, NGOs, and other relevant organizations to enhance research, monitoring, and conservation efforts;
- l. Develop and oversee a conflict resolution mechanism to address disputes related to coastal greenbelt use and management;
- m. Create appropriate committees, such as Technical Working Group (TWG),

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Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Committee, Mangrove Ecotourism Committee, and Monitoring and Enforcement (M&E) Committee; and

- n. Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out their functions under this Ordinance.

**SECTION 8. MEETINGS AND QUORUMS:**

- a. Place of Meeting. All meetings, quarterly or special, of the PCGNC shall be held at the principal office of the OPG-ENRO or at any other place designated by the Committee/Secretariat within the Province of Bataan;
- b. Special meetings of the PCGNC may be called at any time by the Chairperson upon the request of the majority of the members of the Committee or if there is an urgent need thereof;

Notice of the special meetings must be received by the members at least two weeks before the meeting. Any defect or irregularity in the notice shall not invalidate the proceedings, provided a quorum is present;

- c. Notices of the time and place of regular, quarterly or special meetings of the members shall be given either personally or by special delivery mail, at least two (2) weeks before the date set for such meeting. The notice of every meeting shall state briefly the purpose or purposes of the meeting;
- d. A quorum for any meeting of the members shall consist of a majority of the members. A majority of such quorum shall decide on any concern(s) at the meetings;
- e. Any member may be represented by proxy in any meeting, provided that a written authorization duly signed by the member was endorsed by the proxy and duly received by the Secretariat.

**SECTION 9. PROVINCIAL COASTAL GREENBELT MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (PCGMAP). -** The PCGMAP shall, at the minimum, contain the following:

- a. A spatial representation and comprehensive inventory or assessment of the status of coastlines and foreshores, including the status of mangroves, beach forests, settlements, structures and fishponds within the coastal zone, including an inventory of affected families;
- b. An Operational Plan that outlines the program for rehabilitation of designated local coastal greenbelt zones, including the operational plan for the reversion and/or fishpond lease cancellation of all technically abandoned and/or illegal fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate mangrove and beach forest species. The program for rehabilitation shall be community-based, long-term, and implemented through the Province. The Operational Plan shall indicate that the program for rehabilitation must cover a minimum target area of twenty percent (20%) of the designated priority areas in the first five (5) years for maximum protection of the most vulnerable communities in the Province. The remaining priority areas must be completed within ten (10) years from the designation of the priority area;
- c. An operational plan for the removal of illegal permanent structures, e.g.,

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breakwaters and other illegal development activities within the local coastal greenbelt zones;

- d. Stakeholder engagement with various stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, NGOs, private sector, and other relevant agencies that aim to encourage active involvement in the decision-making processes, promote local knowledge and traditional practices, and foster partnerships and collaborations to achieve common conservation and sustainable management goals; and
- e. A monitoring and evaluation plan with measurable targets, appropriate indicators, and reasonable means of verification.

The PCGMAP shall be integrated within the respective provincial and/or city/municipal development plans, land use plans, climate change action plan, coastal resources management plan, and other relevant development and sectoral plans at their soonest possible update. Furthermore, the integrity of the Coastal Greenbelt Zones shall also be considered and integrated into the formulation of master plans, site development plans, architectural plans, and detailed engineering designs for any infrastructure and other development projects to be located within the concerned LGUs.

**SECTION 10. ALLOWED ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE COASTAL GREENBELT ZONE NETWORK.** - The following general activities shall be allowed within the Coastal Greenbelt Zones in the Province of Bataan, provided that these activities will not cause significant alteration and deterioration of the natural hydrology, pedology, faunal mobility, and/or habitat structure within the Coastal Greenbelt Zone:

- a. Rehabilitation of mangrove and/or beach forest; PROVIDED that rehabilitation will be conducted at suitable sites or zones using appropriate species;
- b. Artisanal fishing; PROVIDED that these activities follow specific guidelines on permissible species, fishing gears, and other harvest control rules and measures set by the Provincial Coastal Greenbelt Network Committee to ensure minimal ecological impact;
- c. Aqua-silviculture; PROVIDED that these will be promoted in the rehabilitation of AUU Fishpond and not be implemented to expand in existing mangrove areas;
- d. Ecotourism and Recreational Activities; PROVIDED that activities adhere to carrying capacity limits, pollution controls and a site development plan approved by the PCGNC;
- e. Scientific research, biodiversity monitoring, and education programs; PROVIDED that these generate critical knowledge for effective ecosystem management, inform evidence-based decision-making, improve conservation strategies, raise public awareness, build local capacity, and typically have minimal environmental impact while potentially attracting funding for ongoing protection efforts; and
- f. Maintenance and protection of Coastal Greenbelt Zone.

Specific activities allowed for each Coastal Greenbelt Zone shall be determined

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by the respective City/Municipal Coastal Greenbelt Zone Committee and shall be included in its LCGMAP.

In the case of Balanga Wetland and Nature Park (BWNP), the Balanga Wetland and Nature Park Ecotourism Development and Management Plan shall serve as the LCGMAP, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11365 or the Balanga Wetland and Nature Park Responsible Ecotourism Act.

**SECTION 11. PROHIBITED ACTS.** - The following acts are prohibited within Coastal Greenbelt Zones:

- a. Cutting, pruning, and clearing of mangroves;
- b. Collection and utilization of wood and non-wood products derived from planted and protected mangroves;
- c. Hunting and killing of wildlife in the area;
- d. Dumping of waste materials, including solid waste, toxic substances, or any pollutants;
- e. Conversion of mangrove areas into fishponds or other land uses;
- f. Dragging seine nets under mangrove canopies;
- g. Use of destructive fishing methods, including but not limited to dynamite fishing, use of fine mesh nets and use of toxic substances;
- h. Quarrying, mining, or extraction of soil, sand, gravel, or any mineral resources;
- i. Burning or setting fire to any part of the coastal greenbelt zone;
- j. Building of structures other than those allowed in Section 8 of this Ordinance, and other coastal development projects such as reclamation;
- k. Engaging in any activity that significantly alters the natural state of the ecosystem;
- l. Introduction of invasive alien species;
- m. Vandalism of natural features or installed infrastructure;
- n. Use of loud audio equipment that may disturb wildlife;
- o. Grazing of livestock; and
- p. Other activities that are not consistent with this Ordinance and the P/LCGMAP.

**SECTION 12. PENALTIES.** - Any individual or business entity found violating this Ordinance shall be fined or penalized accordingly:

First Offense	Fine of PHP 1,000.00
Second Offense	Fine of PHP 3,000.00
Third and Succeeding Offenses	Fine of PHP 5,000.00

In the event a business entity violates this Ordinance, its Proprietor, President or Manager, whichever is applicable, shall be held responsible for the fine stated above.

**SECTION 13. ROLES OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.** - In the development and implementation of the PCGMAP, the civil society organizations, the academe, the private sector, and other concerned stakeholder groups shall be engaged in activities such as planning, community organizing, research, technology transfer, information sharing, investment, training programs, monitoring and evaluation, response, and feedback systems.

**SECTION 14. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION.** - Funds to fully support the protection, maintenance, administration, regulation, and sustainable

  
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management of the Coastal Greenbelt Network and implementation of the PCGMAP shall be sourced from the following:

- a. Allocations under the Annual Investment Program (AIP) of the PGB and the City and Municipal Governments;
- b. Counterpart funding from National Government Agencies;
- c. Investments of the private sector through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and/or under adoption projects in partnership with the LGUs;
- d. Grants and financial assistance from donor agencies and other partners; and;
- e. Proceeds from ecotourism and other income-generating activities on site, where applicable and in accordance with the LCGMAP.

**SECTION 15. ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATE CITY AND MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE.** - The City Government of Balanga and the Municipal Governments of Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay, Pilar, Orion, Limay, and Mariveles are hereby encouraged to enact an ordinance establishing Coastal Greenbelt Zones within their respective jurisdictions.

**SECTION 16. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 17. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All ordinances, resolutions, local executive orders or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 18. EFFECTIVITY.** This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Code.

UNANIMOUSLY ENACTED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** to the enactment of the foregoing ordinance.

ATTY. MARK LORENZ C. QUEZON  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

BENJAMIN C. SERRANO, JR.  
Board Member


MARIA MARGARITA R. ROQUE  
Board Member

JOMAR L. GAZA J.D.  
Board Member

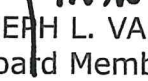
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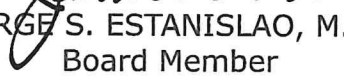




ROMANO L. DEL ROSARIO  
Board Member



NOEL JOSEPH L. VALDECAÑAS  
Board Member




JORGE S. ESTANISLAO, M.D.  
Board Member





ANGELITO M. SUNGA  
Board Member




ROMAN HAROLD R. ESPELETA  
Board Member



ROMEO A. AUSTRIA  
Board Member  
(FABC President)



LOVELY JOY A. POBLETE  
Board Member  
(SKF President)




FELICIANO G. MAGAY, JR.  
Board Member  
(IPMR)

ATTESTED:



ANTONINO B. ROMAN III, J.D., LL.M.  
Acting Vice Governor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED:



MA. CRISTINA M. GARCIA  
Acting Provincial Governor  
Date: 3-14-25

