



Sangguniang Panlalawigan

BATAAN CAPITOL, BALANGA CITY



EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 108TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF BATAAN ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 HELD AT THE SESSION HALL, THE BUNKER, CAPITOL COMPOUND, BALANGA CITY, BATAAN

PRESENT:

Hon. Ma. Cristina M. Garcia, Vice Governor and Presiding Officer

FIRST DISTRICT:

Hon. Antonino B. Roman III, J.D., LL.M., Board Member
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. Jovy Z. Banzon, Board Member (PCL President)
Hon. Romeo A. Austria, Board Member (FABC President)
Hon. Lovely Joy A. Poblete, Board Member (SKF President)

ABSENT:

Hon. Feliciano G. Magay, Jr., Board Member (IPMR) (O.B.)

PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 23 Series of 2024

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE MARINE TURTLE OR PAWIKAN AS THE FLAGSHIP SPECIES OF THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN.

SPONSORED BY:
HON. MANUEL N. BELTRAN

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9147, also known as the 'Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001', Section 2, Chapter 1, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, Fisheries Administrative Order 233, also known as the 'Aquatic Wildlife Conservation of 2001' seek to conserve and protect wildlife species and their habitats to promote ecological balance and enhance biological diversity, among other objectives;

WHEREAS, Marine turtles, locally known as "pawikan", are important living components of marine ecosystems that offer benefits far beyond the tangible;

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Provincial Governor

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

WHEREAS, in the Province of Bataan, three of the five known species of sea turtles in the country nest on the beaches and forage in waters within its jurisdiction, namely, the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). These are endangered species under the Convention of International Trade in Species on Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

WHEREAS, various national and local legislation is in place to protect and conserve sea turtles in the Philippines, where a significant number of sea turtle populations nest and forage. In 1991, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued Administrative Order No. 48 in support of the IUCN and CITES covenants. The devolution of the municipal waters up to 15 km offshore provided for in the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) allows for the establishment of protected areas or sanctuaries within municipal waters through the enactment of municipal resolutions and ordinances. Section 16 on General Welfare specifically empowers local government units (LGUs) to "enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology and encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities";

WHEREAS, the Province of Bataan, particularly the coastal areas of the Municipalities of Morong, Bagac, Mariveles, and Limay, is known to be one of the few nesting sites of the olive ridley, hawksbill sea turtle, and green sea turtle in the Philippines;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, in session duly assembled:

Section 1. Title. – This ordinance shall be known as "Declaring the Pawikan as the Flagship Species of the Province of Bataan" and shall be hereinafter referred to as the "Ordinance".

Section 2. Declaration of Purpose. – The Provincial Government of Bataan (PGB) recognizes the importance of conserving and protecting its unique biodiversity, particularly the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*).

These are endangered species that inhabit the coastal waters and beaches of the province. It is the PGB's duty to ensure the preservation of these species for the benefit of present and future generations. By designating these sea turtles as the province's flagship species, the PGB aims to raise awareness and promote the conservation efforts required to protect this remarkable marine creature and its habitat.

Section 3. Designation of Pawikan as Flagship Species. – The pawikan, including the three species, namely olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) are hereby designated as the flagship species of the Province of Bataan. It shall represent the province's commitment to biodiversity conservation, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development.

Section 4. Objectives. – The objectives of this Ordinance are the following:

4.1 To raise awareness among the residents and visitors of the Province of Bataan on the importance of biodiversity

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conservation, particularly the protection and preservation of olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and their habitat;

4.2 To promote sustainable marine practices, including the use of responsible fishing methods, habitat protection, and waste management, to ensure the long-term survival of the sea turtles, and the preservation of the marine ecosystem; and

4.3 To establish partnerships and collaborations with relevant government agencies, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and other stakeholders to implement programs and initiatives for the conservation and protection of sea turtles.

Section 5. Rights and Responsibilities. - The rights and responsibilities of the PGB are as follows:

5.1 *Protection and Conservation Measures:* The PGB shall undertake all necessary measures to protect and conserve the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and its nesting sites within its jurisdiction. This shall include, but is not limited to, enforcing laws and regulations related to marine turtles, conducting regular monitoring and research activities, and collaborating with relevant government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to implement conservation initiatives;

5.2 *Awareness and Education:* The PGB shall develop and implement educational programs and campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and their conservation. These initiatives shall include educational materials, workshops, community outreach programs, and awareness campaigns targeting residents, visitors, and other stakeholders; and

5.3 *Sustainable Tourism:* The PGB shall promote responsible and sustainable tourism practices that minimize negative impacts on the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and their habitat. These shall include establishing guidelines for turtle watching activities, regulating boat and beach access, and encouraging environment friendly practices among tourism operators.

Section 6. Cooperation with Stakeholders. - The PGB shall actively collaborate with relevant government agencies, component city and municipalities, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and local communities to implement the provisions of this ordinance. This collaboration shall include sharing of information, coordinating activities, and seeking financial and technical assistance to support conservation efforts.

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Section 7. Implementation and Funding. – The PGB, in coordination with the Office of the Provincial Government - Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PG-ENRO) shall be responsible for the effective implementation of this Ordinance. The necessary funds for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be included in the annual budget of the PGB.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. – Any provision of existing ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with this ordinance is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. Effectivity. – This Ordinance shall take effect upon approval and compliance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991.

UNANIMOUSLY ENACTED this 23rd day of September 2024.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the enactment of the foregoing ordinance.



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



ANTONINO B. ROMAN III, J.D., LL.M.
Board Member



MARIA MARGARITA R. ROQUE
Board Member



BENJAMIN C. SERRANO, JR.
Board Member



MANUEL N. BELTRAN
Board Member



JOMAR L. GAZA J.D.
Board Member



NOEL JOSEPH L. VALDECAÑAS
Board Member



ROMANO L. DEL ROSARIO
Board Member



ANGELITO M. SUNGA
Board Member



JORGE S. ESTANISLAO, M.D.
Board Member



ROMAN HAROLD R. ESPELETA
Board Member



JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III
Provincial Governor





JOVY Z. BANZON
Board Member
(PCL President)



ROMEO A. AUSTRIA
Board Member
(FABC President)



LOVELY JOY A. POBLETE
Board Member
(SKF President)

ATTESTED:



MA. CRISTINA M. GARCIA
Vice Governor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

Trina



JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III
Provincial Governor
Date: 10-01-2024

