



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
South Wing, Provincial Capitol Building  
South Capitol Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100  
Tel. Nos. 435-7698 \* 447-5657 \* 707-8075

*EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL  
HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024*

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Valentino Miguel J. Alonso	Temporary Presiding Officer
Hon. Rommel T. Debulgado	Member - 1 <sup>st</sup> District
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa	Member - 1 <sup>st</sup> District
Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon	Member - 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Hon. Samson C. Mirhan	Member - 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Hon. Manuel Frederick O. Ko	Member - 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao	Member - 5 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Anthony Dennis J. Occeño	Member - 5 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola	Member - 6 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio	Member - PCL Rep.
Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member - SKF Rep.

**ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS:**

Hon. Jeffrey P. Ferrer	Vice-Governor/Presiding Officer
Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano	Member - 3 <sup>rd</sup> District
Hon. Jose Benito A. Alonso	Member - 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Andrew Martin Y. Torres	Member - 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member - ABC Rep.

**ORDINANCE NO. 002**  
Series of 2024

***AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE PROVINCIAL NETWORK OF COASTAL  
GREENBELT ZONES AND WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL***

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

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991 that the "Local government units shall share with the national government the responsibility in the management and maintenance of ecological balance within their territorial jurisdiction";

**WHEREAS**, the Municipalities of Pulupandan, Valladolid, San Enrique, Pontevedra, Hinigaran, Binalbagan, and Ilog and the Cities of Bago, Kabankalan and Himamaylan declares their respective coastal areas with an aggregate 89.608 hectares stretching to 109.2 kilometers as Local Conservation Areas (LCAs) and is considered as the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetland Areas (NOCWCA), an important wetland area for the conservation and protection of water and migratory birds and other wildlife and declared as the 7th Ramsar Site, out of the eight (8) Sites in the Philippines under the Convention of Wetlands, known as Ramsar Convention of the United Nations;





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**WHEREAS**, one of the priorities of the Province of Negros Occidental in its “*ABANSE NEGRENSE*” thrust is Sustainable Environmental Management, including the sustainable development of its coastal areas to address the pressing needs of the present and future generations of Negros Occidental;

**WHEREAS**, the Province of Negros Occidental initiated the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetland Areas Management Alliance (NOCWAMA), comprising of the Province of Negros Occidental, the Cities of Bago, Himamaylan & Kabankalan; Municipalities of Pulupandan, Valladolid, San Enrique, Pontevedra, Hinigaran, Binalbagan, Ilog, and DENR-PENRO, USLS, CHMSC, CPSU, PBCFI, KAHIL-ICAMC and CENECCORD who agreed to jointly and severally work harmoniously for the assessment, rehabilitation, conservation and protection of the coastal wetlands resources in order to achieve sound ecological balance, clean and sustainable environment for better living condition of the public and coastal inhabitants;

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Governor, Hon. Eugenio Jose V. Lacson issued Executive Order No. 22-51, series of 2022, declaring the NOCWCA or the 7<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Site and future contiguous Local Conservation Areas to be declared by component LGUs as part of the Network of Local Conservation Areas (NLCA) in the Province of Negros Occidental in order to optimize the management of these Local Conservation Areas for effective preservation, protection, rehabilitation, enforcement, and monitoring activities;

**WHEREAS**, compelling evidence suggests that mangroves and beach forest species hold tremendous potential in reducing the impacts of climate change and in mitigating the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property;

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

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the General Welfare Clause under Sections 16 and Sec. 17 (b) of Republic Act 7160, also known as the Local Government Code, further provide for cities and municipalities to establish tree parks, greenbelts, and similar forest development projects and promote passage of these ordinances.

**WHEREAS**, the Province is mandated to support its component cities and municipalities in their protection, regulation, conservation and sustainable management of its coastal zone and marine areas within its municipal waters, including its diverse mangrove forests that are vital for the shoreline protection, control and mitigation of impacts of flooding, erosion, and other natural hazards and risks, at the same time, serving as natural sanctuary of the various species of fish and other aquatic resources, particularly oysters and nylon shell that are sources of food and income for its coastal communities;

**WHEREAS**, in compliance thereof, and in consideration that the Province has already declared the Network of Local Conservation Areas with aggregate area of 89.608 hectares, portions of which are containing the mangrove forests which need to optimize their protection as coastal greenbelt zones for effective enforcement, incentive, and monitoring mechanisms, the Provincial Governor, Hon. Eugenio Jose V. Lacson issued Executive Order No. 22-50, series of 2022, declaring the Mangrove Forests/Areas of the





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Network of Local Conservation Areas as the Network of Local Coastal Greenbelt Zones (NLCGZ) in the Province of Negros Occidental, as well as those Mangrove Forests/Areas of future declared LCAs of the component cities and municipalities to be part thereof.

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to institutionalize these Networks (NLCA and NLCGZ) to ensure its proper management, protection, conservation and rehabilitation and provide funds therefore towards improved productivity, biodiversity and full potential as coastal defenses against the adverse impacts of extreme weather conditions brought about by climate change and as an important wetland area for the conservation and protection of water and migratory birds and other wildlife.

**NOW THEREFORE**, on motion of Hon. Araceli T. Somosa and unanimously seconded by all members present,

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN IN SESSION ASSEMBLED**, that:

**Section 1. Title.** This ordinance shall be known as "The Provincial Network of Local Coastal Greenbelt Zones and Wetlands Conservation Areas (NLCGZWCA) Ordinance of 2023".

**Section 2. Policy.** It is hereby declared to be the Policy of the Province of Negros Occidental to practice sustainable environmental management of coastal natural resources through the Board created herein to address the pressing needs of the present and future generations of Negros Occidental and adopt the Local Conservation Area strategy for a balanced and healthful ecology of coastal areas.

**Section 3. Scope and Coverage.** This Ordinance shall apply to coastal areas and mangrove forests declared as Local Conservation Areas and/or Coastal Greenbelt Zones within the territorial boundaries of the Province of Negros Occidental.

**Section 4. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Ordinance, the following terms, whether singular or plural, unless the context indicates otherwise, shall have the following meanings:

- a. **Board** – Provincial Network of Local Coastal Greenbelt Zones and Wetlands Conservation Areas
- b. **Coastal Greenbelt Zone** – refers to specific strips of natural or artificially created coastal vegetation, stretching at least one hundred (100) meters in width from the sea towards land, primarily of mangrove and beach forest species, designed to prevent coastal erosion, and mitigate the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property. (*Senate Bill No. 1237*) (*Technical Guidelines for the Establishment of a Coastal Greenbelt. March 2007. The World Conservation Union (IUCN). Sri Lanka Country Office*)





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- c. **Coastal Wetlands** – refers to areas to include, but are not limited to, salt marshes, open ponds, mudflats, man-made or natural water bird refuges, mangrove flats, reef flats/seagrass beds, and coral reefs within municipal waters.
- d. **Coastal Zone** – refers to the band of dry land and adjacent ocean space (water and submerged land), the terrestrial processes and uses thereof directly affecting oceanic processes and uses and vice versa and whose 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, estuaries, sandy beaches and other areas within a seaward limit of two hundred (200) meters isobaths to include coral reefs, algae flats, seagrass beds and other soft bottom areas. *(R.A. No. 8550, as amended by R.A 10654)*
- e. **Local Conservation Area (LCA)** – refers to an area, network of areas, or areas straddling adjacent local governments within a KBA outside of the PA system. It is established mainly for conservation purposes and under the management of LGUs. It can also refer to critical habitats managed by LGUs under the Wildlife Act. *(UNDP-GEF-BMB NewCAPP. 2014. Guide to Local Conservation Area (LCA) Management Planning. UNDP-GEF-BMB-NewCAPP, Quezon City, Philippines)*
- f. **Mangrove forest** - refers to type of forest occurring on tidal flat along the sea coast, extending along stream where the water is brackish. *(PD 705)*
- g. **Network** – a group of interconnected local conservation areas declared through a Local Ordinance and/or adjoining mangrove forests that are vital for the shoreline protection, control and mitigation of impacts of flooding, erosion, and other natural hazards and risks, and also serves as natural sanctuary of the various species of fish and other aquatic resources.
- h. **PNLCGZWCA** – Provincial Network of Local Coastal Greenbelt Zones and Wetlands Conservation Areas
- i. **Ramsar Site** – refers to a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the RAMSAR Convention, also known as “The Convention on Wetlands”, and Intergovernmental Environmental Treaty established on February 2, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran by UNESCO
- j. **UNESCO** – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.

**Section 5. Declaration of Network of Local Coastal Greenbelt Zones.** All declared Local Coastal Greenbelt Zones in each component cities and municipalities of Negros Occidental shall form part and parcel of the **PROVINCIAL NETWORK OF LOCAL COASTAL GREENBELT ZONES (NLCGZ)** of the Province of Negros Occidental.





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**Section 6. Declaration of Network of Local Wetlands Conservation Areas.** The 89,608 hectares coastal area stretching to 109.2 kilometers NOCWCA or the 7<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Site in the Philippines covering component local government units from City of Bago, Municipality of Pulupandan, Municipality of Valladolid, Municipality of San Enrique, Municipality of Pontevedra, Municipality of Hinigaran, Municipality of Binalbagan, City of Himamaylan, City of Kabankalan and Municipality of Ilog be declared as the **PROVINCIAL NETWORK OF LOCAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREAS (PNLWCA)** of the Province of Negros Occidental. Further declaring future areas contiguous to these areas which will be declared by component city/ies and municipality/ies of the Province of Negros Occidental as Local Coastal/Wetlands Conservation Area (LCCA) to be included in the Network of Local Wetlands Conservation Areas of Negros Occidental under this Ordinance.

**Section 7. Creation of Provincial NLCGZWCA Management Coordinating Board.** There shall be created an NLCGZWCA Management Board (NMB) pursuant to this Policy. The Board shall be composed of the following:

- a. Provincial Governor – Chairperson
- b. Provincial Administrator's Office – Vice Chairperson
- c. Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO) – Action Officer
- d. Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO)
- e. Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA)
- f. Chairpersons or Executive Director of Local Conservation Areas and Inter-LGU Alliances
- g. Representative from Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
- h. Representative from Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)
- i. Environmental NGO
- j. Academe Representative

**Section 8. Functions and Powers.** The Provincial NLCGZWCA Management Coordinating Board shall have the following functions:

- a. Harmonize and coordinate the roles and relationships of different government agencies and local government units, pursuant to their mandates relative to the Local Conservation Area and Greenbelt Zone establishment, policy direction and governance framework;
- b. Formulate the Provincial NLCGZWCA Management Plan that will serve as guide for the component Local Government Units in providing support to the related programs and projects;
- c. Provide support to strengthen the Technical Working Group of the Provincial NLCGZWCA;
- d. Provide technical support to the component local government units in the formulation and passage of Ordinance establishing Coastal Greenbelt Zones and Local Conservation Areas;



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- e. Assist the component cities and municipalities in the formulation of their Local Conservation Area Management Plan and Coastal Greenbelt Zone Plan and in the review and updating of the said plans; and
- f. Perform such other functions as maybe directed by the Governor.

**Section 9. Secretariat.** Personnel from the Provincial Environment Management Office shall be assigned to serve as the Secretariat for the Board. The Secretariat shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- a. Prepare agenda in consultation with the Chairperson
- b. Circulate agenda and other papers among members in relation to meetings
- c. Receive agenda items from other Board members
- d. Preparation of minutes and other documentation
- e. Check that there is quorum during meetings
- f. Check that agreed actions are carried out
- g. Act as custodian of all documents, papers, reports and records related to the Provincial NLCGZWCA
- h. Keep up-to-date contact details of all members of the Board
- i. Prepare Annual Report of the PNLCGZWCA
- j. Prepare Project Proposals of the Board relative to PNLCGZWCA
- k. Other functions and duties that may be assigned by the Board

**Section 10. Management of NOCWCA/7<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Site.** This Ordinance hereby adopts the Agreement and Area Management Plan of the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetland Areas Management Alliance (NOCWAMA) to form integral parts hereof.

**Section 11. Creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG).** There shall be created a Technical Working Group (TWG) of PNLCGZWCA comprising of representatives from the following:

- a. PEMO
- b. PPDO
- c. OPA
- d. LCA Managers or ENRO
- e. Inter-LGU Alliances on Environment
- f. BFAR
- g. PENRO
- h. Environmental NGO
- i. Academe





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**Section 12. Functions of TWG.** The TWG of the PNLCGZWCA shall have the following functions:

- a. Coordinate activities and align resources to better work toward common objectives of the Provincial NLCGZWCA;
- b. Facilitate discussions to assess and review proposals and plans;
- c. Recommend to the Board policies related to PNLCGZWCA;
- d. Provide oversight of implementation of programs and projects;
- e. Address technical issues related to the implementation of the programs and projects;
- f. Recommend to the NLCGZWCA Management Coordinating Board programs, projects and activities anchored to the Provincial Management Plan;
- g. Other tasks that may be assigned by the Board;

**Section 13. Annual Budgetary Allocation.** To carry out the purpose of this Ordinance and effectively perform functions of the Board, the Province of Negros Occidental shall provide annual budgetary allocations for the operation of the Board. Likewise, the Province may allocate funds for the local coastal greenbelt zones and wetlands conservation areas programs, projects and activities of the Board as may be proposed by the latter.

**Section 14. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Ordinance is declared by any Court or any competent authority as illegal or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not declared as such shall be given force and effect to accomplish the objectives of this Ordinance.

**Section 15. Repealing Clause.** All ordinances, local executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 16. Effectivity.** This Ordinance shall take effect after five (5) days from the date a copy thereof is posted in a bulletin board at the entrance of and in at least two (2) other conspicuous places of the provincial capitol.

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.** February 20, 2024

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

  
**HON. VALENTINO MIGUEL J. ALONSO**  
Temporary Presiding Officer






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ATTESTED:

  
**JESSICA E. ALOVERA**  
Legislative Staff Officer V

APPROVED:

  
**HON. EUGENIO JOSE Y. LACSON**  
Governor

Date: MAY 08 2024