

**REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
LUNGSOD NG BAKOLOD
-oOo-**

**CITY ORDINANCE NO. 969
October 27, 2021**

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN LANDS AS PROTECTED AREAS.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7586, also known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992, states that areas possessing common ecological values that is representative of our natural heritage shall be deemed as protected areas;

WHEREAS, R.A. 7586 further provides solid classifications of other areas that can be established as protected areas such as natural parks, coral reefs, strict nature reserve, natural monuments, wildlife sanctuary, protected landscapes and seascapes, and resource reserves;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11038 continually expands on the NIPAS Act of 1992 further including more protected areas;

WHEREAS, the existence of numerous protected areas all throughout the nation should prompt the speedy action of declaring Bacolod City's numerous wildlife sanctuaries and natural landscapes as protected areas as well;

WHEREAS, Bacolod City has numerous ecological zones thriving with blooming biodiversity that needs to be safeguarded;

WHEREAS, there is a lack of a specialized team to conduct studies on areas that may be deemed as protected areas in Bacolod City;

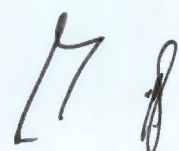
WHEREAS, the passing of Republic Act No. 8991, also known as the Batanes Protected Area Act of 2000, should inspire Bacolod to do so as well considering the City is one of the homes of biodiversity within the region of Negros Occidental;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9486, also known as Central Cebu Protected Landscape Act of 2007, provides further feasibility that protection of watershed forest reserves, national parks, and other ecological zones is essential in a City's development;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8371, also known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997, shows that declaring of protected areas is beneficial to not only the environment but the promotion of identity and culture of the area and the people as well;

WHEREAS, preservation of these Natural Ecological Zones will benefit the City's development, resource management, and tourism;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod City in regular session assembled that:



Section 1. Title. This ordinance shall be known as the "**ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN LANDS AS PROTECTED AREAS**".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the city, to conduct research on potential ecological zones within the City of Bacolod to find out if these areas will qualify as areas to be declared protected to ensure the safety and growth of its resources, aggregates, flora and fauna, historical artifacts and sites, endangered or threatened rare species, and other cultural or archeological significance found in the area.

Section 3. Scope and Coverage. This ordinance shall cover up Coastal Areas within the immediate vicinity of Singcang, Pta. Taytay, Sum-Ag, Taculing, Pahanocoy, Tangub and other areas that the DENR-CENRO will deem as significant areas in need of safeguarding.

Section 4. Definition of Terms. The following terms are defined for the purposes of this ordinance:

Significant Areas- Areas that are deemed important through either being classified as strict nature reserves, natural parks, natural monuments, wildlife sanctuaries, resource reserve, or natural biotic areas;

Ecological Zones- areas with high activities of biodiversity, wildlife occurrence, ecological processes, and areas with high amounts of resources found therein;

Protected Areas- identified portions of land and water set aside by reason of their distinct biological significance with the hopes of honing it;

Natural biotic area- areas outside of societies wherein the environment is to adapt to modern technology at their pace;

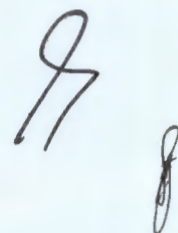
Protected landscapes and seascapes- areas of extreme significance often characterized by their importance to the Nation through either providing it resources, public enjoyment, safe havens for biodiversity;

Resource reserves- area with high amounts of natural resources protected with the hopes of using the resources found therein for future use and establishment of other objectives around the said area;

Wildlife Sanctuary- areas with high amounts of biodiversity protected to ensure the safety and welfare of the wildlife found within it;

Endangered Threatened species- any flora or fauna facing imminent threat and danger of extinction;

Section 5. Identification for Protected Areas. Before the declaration of protected areas, a committee shall formulate a study and a comprehensive report on the specific area to be deemed as protected and it shall pass the hearing with the DENR.

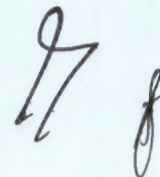


Section 6. Formation of the Committee. The committee shall be convened by the mayor to compose professional individuals with due educational background and prior knowledge on Bacolod's coastal areas which shall be headed by the City Mayor. The committee shall be composed of the following or their designated representatives.

- Photographers
- Geographic Information Systems Analyst
- Ecologist
- Park Ranger
- Tourism Officer
- Urban Planner
- A representative from Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- A representative from the Academe to be appointed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Regional Office, upon the recommendation of the former's peers
- A representative from the Department of Agriculture (DA)
- A representative from Environmental Groups
- A representative from Civil Society Organizations
- A representative from Coastal Peoples Organization
- A representative from the City Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (CFARMC)
- A representative from Highly Urbanized City Agricultural and Fishery Council "(HUCAFC) "
- A representative from City Planning and Development Office "(CPDO)"

Functions of the committee:

- To identify protected areas.
- To oversee the identification documentation and submission of documents as required by DENR.
- To prepare a comprehensive plan for the protection of the protected areas.
- To make recommendations to the executive department on steps that needs to be undertaken to rehabilitate and save the area from further degradation.
- To oversee the rehabilitation, promotion and information dissemination to the inhabitants of the area.
- To plan and initiate rehabilitation projects in coordination with local civic groups and people's organizations for the upkeep and rehabilitation of the area.
- To spearhead coordination between the protected area inhabitants and the legislative and executive departments.



Section 7. Content of Report.

- a) Name and location of the protected area.
- b) Flora and fauna found within the area.
- c) Presence of nearby human settlements within the immediate vicinity.
- d) Photos of the area (aerial and landscape).
- e) Brief written report on the area's natural resources.

Section 8. Funding Source. An initial funding to defray the expenses for the implementation of this ordinance in the amount of P1,000,000.00 or done through the engagement of consultants and sourced from the funds of the City Government with the terms of references of the bidding to cover the above personnel qualifications, and is hereby allocated every year thereafter, at least, P1,000,000.00 for its upkeep and salary payment to the sector, and shall automatically be included in the Annual Budget of the city for the implementation and enforcement of this Ordinance.

Section 9. Effects of the Declaration. Once the area has passed deliberation, the area will be deemed as a protected area therefore any acts that may cause direct or indirect damage to the area's beauty, quality, safety, wildlife, will be punished accordingly.

Section 10. Separability Clause. If any part of this Ordinance is declared as unconstitutional or unlawful, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or Sections hereof that are not declared unlawful or unconstitutional.

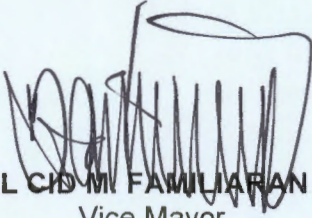
Section 11. Repealing Clause. All previous ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 12. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the last day of its publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the City and after posting of the same in three (3) conspicuous places.

CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF:

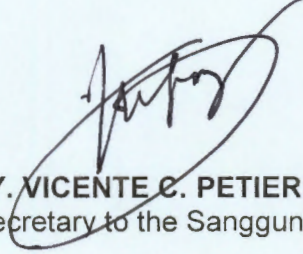
Affirmative :
Councilors : Cindy T. Rojas, Renecito S. Novero, Simplicia Z. Distrito, Carlos Jose V. Lopez, Al Victor A. Espino, Archie S. Baribar, Israel P. Salanga, Dindo C. Ramos, Bartolome N. Orola, Sr., Ana Marie V. Palermo, Lady Gles Gonzales-Pallen, Ayesha Joy Y. Villaflor.

Negative : None.
Absent : None.
Author : Councilor Carlos Jose V. Lopez
Passed : October 27, 2021 (121st Regular Session of the 10th Council via Zoom Teleconference)
Comments : Passed.
Councilor Wilson C. Gamboa, Jr. was not around when this ordinance was passed.




ELPIDIO M. FAMILIARAN
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

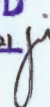


ATTY. VICENTE C. PETIERRE III
Secretary to the Sanggunian

APPROVED: _____

EVELIO R. LEONARDIA
City Mayor 

VCP/CGT/*ngb*

10 DAYS LAPSED
AS OF November 15, 2021 



CERTIFICATION

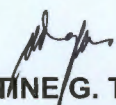
This is to certify that **CITY ORDINANCE NO. 969, Series of 2021** passed by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Bacolod on October 27, 2021 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN LANDS AS PROTECTED AREAS.

was published in Journal Visayas on December 27, 2021-January 2, 2022 and posted on November 15, 2021, in the following conspicuous places in the City of Bacolod, to wit:

1. Bulletin Board of the Sangguniang Panlungsod
2nd Floor Bacolod City Government Center
2. Old City Hall (Araneta-Luzuriaga Streets)
3. Bacolod Public Plaza
4. City Health Office
5. Hall of Justice
6. North (Burgos) Public Market
7. South (Libertad) Public Market
8. Central Market

Bacolod City, Philippines, January 19, 2022.


CHRISTINE G. TEMPLA
Board Secretary IV 