

MATRIX ON NATIONAL GREENING ACT

<p>HB NO. 538</p> <p>Authored by Dan S. Fernandez</p>	<p>HB No. 5327</p> <p>Authored by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez</p>	<p>Draft Substitute Measure (Pending with Committee on Appropriations in the 18th Congress)</p>
<p>AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE URBAN AND COUNTRYSIDE GREENING IN THE PHILIPPINES</p>	<p>AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE URBAN AND COUNTRYSIDE GREENING IN THE PHILIPPINES</p>	<p>AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE GREENING OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY, PROHIBITING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CUTTING OF TREES AND DESTROYING OR INJURING OF PLANTS IN CERTAIN AREAS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF</p>
<p>Section 1. <i>Short Title.</i> – This Act Shall be known as the “National Greening Act of 2022.”</p>	<p>SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known and cited as the “<i>National Greening Act</i>”.</p>	<p>SECTION 1. <i>Short Title.</i> – This Act shall be known as the “<i>National Greening Act.</i>”</p>
<p>Sec. 2. <i>Declaration of Policy.</i> – It shall be the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.</p>	<p>SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – Recognizing the vital role of trees in ecological stability, it is hereby declared the national policy to ensure sufficient greenery in urban and countryside and to</p>	<p>SEC. 2. <i>Declaration of Policy.</i> – It is the policy of the State to ensure sufficient greenery in urban and rural areas and to promote the right of the people to enjoy the benefits of a balanced and healthy</p>

Towards this end, the State shall adopt and implement plans, projects and programs for the effective greening of the urban and countryside in the entire country.	promote the right of the people to enjoy the benefits of a balanced and healthy ecology.	ecology. Towards this end, the State shall adopt and implement plans, projects and programs for the effective greening of the urban and rural landscape in the entire country and shall optimize the vital role of indigenous and endemic plants in strengthening the country's ecological stability, food and water security, health and wellness, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction.
	SECTION 3. Scope. – This Act shall apply to all barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces.	
<p>Sec. 3. Objectives. – This Act shall have the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To encourage, as well as provide necessary support, to all entities, both public and private, to plant trees, flowers, plants and grass in all vacant spaces, pots and containers; b. To build, develop and maintain forest parks, and gardens in provincial, city and municipal, plazas, school roads, and other public open spaces where appropriate; 	<p>SECTION 4. Objectives. – Pursuant to the policy declared herein, it is the objective of this Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To build, develop and maintain forest parks in provincial, city and municipal plazas, elementary school grounds and by the planting of trees in national, provincial, municipal or barangay roads and other public open spaces where appropriate; (b) To require from the national agencies and local government units the planting of trees and shrubbery in specified areas; 	<p>SEC. 3. Objectives. – The objectives of this Act are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Build, develop, adopt and maintain forest parks and various types of garden, including medicinal and healing gardens, in every local government unit (LGU), and appropriate public and private school grounds, and other public and voluntarily-included private open spaces; b) Require national agencies and LGUs to initiate programs for the propagation of diverse

<p>c. To require from the national agencies and local government units the planting of trees and shrubbery in specified areas;</p> <p>d. To promote environmental consciousness among the community members, such as students, out-of-school youth, civic action groups through their active participation in greening activities; and</p> <p>e. To protect trees and other vegetation from destructive human activities.</p>	<p>(c) To promote environmental consciousness among the community members, i.e. students, youth, other civic action groups, by encouraging active participation in tree-planting activities;</p> <p>(d) To protect trees from various human activities.</p>	<p>indigenous and endemic plants in accordance with the distinctive and unique ecosystem of a specific area;</p> <p>c) Promote environmental consciousness, educate and implement capability building activities, and encourage the active participation of community leaders, students, youth, professionals, civic action groups, and private landowners;</p> <p>d) Strictly maintain, nurture and monitor the planting of trees and other indigenous and endemic plant species to increase the forest cover and create new habitats that provide ecosystem services; and</p> <p>e) Identify and develop new nurseries to have a stable and continuous source of endemic and indigenous plant species that are needed and appropriate in specific areas for the effective implementation of the greening program.</p>
		SEC. 4. <i>Definition of Terms.</i> – As used in

		<p>this Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Biodiversity</i> refers to the variability among living organisms from all sources which include terrestrial, marine, and aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part, and diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems; b) <i>Endemic species</i> refer to the species or subspecies of flora and fauna which are naturally occurring and found only within specific areas in the country; c) <i>Indigenous species</i> refer to species or subspecies of flora and fauna which are produced, growing, living, or occurring natively or naturally in a particular region or environment; d) <i>Medicinal and healing garden</i> refers to a place of refuge that promote healing and improve health, including open spaces in hospitals and healthcare facilities, and the plants grown possess therapeutic properties or exert beneficial pharmacological effect
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		<p>on the human or animal body;</p> <p>e) <i>Open space</i> refers to an area reserved exclusively for parks, playgrounds, recreational uses, schools, roads, places of worship, hospitals, health centers, barangay centers, and other similar facilities and amenities; and</p> <p>f) <i>Professional organizations</i> refer to groups of urban planners, landscape architects, engineers, surveyors, builders and other professionals who possess knowledge and skill in environmental sustainability.</p>
<p>Sec. 4. <i>National Greening Committee.</i> –</p> <p>A National Greening Committee (National Committee) is hereby constituted, to be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as Chairman and the respective Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of the</p>	<p>SECTION 5.</p> <p>A National Greening Committee is hereby created with the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as Chairman and the respective secretaries of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of</p>	<p>SEC. 5. <i>National Greening Committee.</i> –</p> <p>A National Greening Committee, hereinafter referred to as the National Committee, is created, and composed of representatives from the government and the private sector, as follows:</p> <p>a) Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, as chairperson;</p>

<p>Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Tourism (DOT) and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as members.</p> <p>The National Committee shall have the power to promulgate the pertinent rules and regulations as may be necessary to fully implement the objectives and purposes of this Act within a period not later than ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.</p> <p>It shall have the power to rule on disputes involving the Regional Greening Committee and to appoint or form an ad hoc committee when the Regional Committee is unable to perform its duties.</p> <p>The National Committee also convenes every quarter to hear the reports or performance from the Regional Committee.</p>	<p>Education (DepEd) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) as members.</p> <p>The National Committee shall have the power to promulgate the pertinent rules and regulations as may be necessary to fully implement the objectives and purposes of this Act within a period not later than ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.</p> <p>It shall have the power to rule on disputes involving the Regional Greening Committee and to appoint or form an ad-hoc committee when the Regional Committee is unable to perform its duties.</p> <p>The National Committee also convenes every quarter to hear the reports or performance from the Regional Committee.</p>	<p>b) Secretary of Public Works and Highway;</p> <p>c) Secretary of Tourism;</p> <p>d) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;</p> <p>e) Secretary of Education;</p> <p>f) Secretary of Agriculture;</p> <p>g) Secretary of Agrarian Reform;</p> <p>h) Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education; and</p> <p>i) Three (3) representatives each from the professional organizations and civic action groups who shall be appointed by the chairperson, as members.</p> <p>The National Committee shall rule on disputes involving the regional greening committees created under Section 6 of this Act and shall form an ad-hoc committee if the regional greening committee is unable to perform its duties.</p> <p>The National Committee shall convene every quarter to hear the performance</p>
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		reports of the regional greening committees.
<p>Sec. 5. Regional Committee. –</p> <p>A Greening Committee for every region in the country, in cooperation with the various local government offices, is hereby constituted to initiate and oversee all the greening activities to be done in the barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces in the respective regions.</p> <p>The respective Regional Director of the DENR shall serve as Chairperson of each Regional Committee, while the respective Regional Director of the DA, DepEd, DILG, DOT, and DPWH would serve as members.</p> <p>The Regional Committee shall coordinate with all the concerned government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), people organizations (POs) and other civil action groups for assistance and cooperation in the implementation of this Act.</p>	<p>SECTION 6. Regional Committee.</p> <p>A Greening Committee for every region in the country, in cooperation with the various local government offices, is hereby created to initiate and oversee all the tree-planting activities to be done in barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces in the respective regions.</p> <p>The Regional Director representing the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the lead official of the concerned local government unit LGU) shall both serve as Co-Chairmen of the Committee. Members of the Committee, representing the respective secretaries, will be the regional directors of the Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) and at most three (3) representatives from civic action groups appointed by the Chairman.</p> <p>The Regional Greening Committee shall coordinate with all the concerned</p>	<p>SEC. 6. Regional Greening Committee. –</p> <p>A regional greening committee for every region in the country, in cooperation with the various local government units and executive regional offices, is created to initiate and oversee all the tree planting activities in barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces.</p> <p>The regional greening committee is composed of the regional directors of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and three (3) representatives each from professional organizations and civic action groups appointed by the regional director of DENR as chairperson. The local chief executive of the concerned LGU shall act as vice chairperson.</p>

	government agencies, non-governmental organization (NGOs), peoples organizations (POs), and other civic action groups for assistance and cooperation in the implementation of this Act.	The regional greening committee shall coordinate with all the concerned government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), peoples organizations, and other civic action groups for assistance and cooperation in the implementation of this Act.
<p>Sec. 6. <i>Specific Functions of the Executive Departments.</i> – Aside from the common Committee responsibilities, the individual line departments of the executive branch shall have the following specific functions:</p> <p>(a) The DENR and the DA shall determine the suitable species of trees, plants and other vegetation and provide seeds, “seedlings or saplings to be planted in forest parks, gardens, open public spaces, or along or on major thoroughfares, suited to the kind, classification, and condition of the area and shall provide technical support involving such greening activities;</p> <p>(b) The LGU shall:</p> <p>(1) mobilize all local concerned agencies and communities to ensure prompt and effective</p>	<p>SECTION 7. <i>Specific functions of the Executive Departments.</i> –</p> <p>Aside from the Committee responsibilities,</p> <p>(a) The DENR shall determine the suitable species of trees and provide seeds or saplings to be planted along or on major thoroughfares, suited to the kind, classification, and condition of the area and shall provide technical support involving tree-planting activities;</p> <p>(b) The LGU shall:</p> <p>(1) mobilize all local concerned agencies and communities to ensure prompt and effective implementation of this Act in every barangay, municipality, city and province;</p> <p>(2) provide for effective measures and ways for the optimum maintenance and</p>	<p>SEC. 7. <i>Functions of Government Agencies and Organizations.</i> –</p> <p>a) The DENR shall:</p> <p>1) Provide technical, scientific, research and legal support involving tree planting activities and its sustainability to determine the suitable species of diverse indigenous and endemic plants, other plants and vegetation, in partnership with the DA;</p> <p>2) Provide locally sourced seeds or saplings suited for planting along major thoroughfares, and in the forest parks, gardens, open, public and voluntary-included private spaces and other areas;</p> <p>3) Provide a list of indigenous and endemic plants;</p>

<p>implementation of this Act in every barangay, municipality, city and province;</p> <p>(2) provide for effective measures and ways for the optimum maintenance and sustainability of trees, plants and other forms of vegetation; and</p> <p>(3) effect the apprehension and prosecution of all persons, violating Sections 8 and 9 of this Act.</p> <p>(c) The DepEd shall integrate all greening activities into the school curriculum to raise awareness and to promote environmental consciousness.</p> <p>(d) The DOT shall assist in the conceptualization and site-evaluation and cooperate in the maintenance of parks, gardens and specified areas and provide additional funding from its resources.</p> <p>(e) The DILG shall coordinate the local government units to ensure prompt and effective implementation of this Act.</p>	<p>sustainability of trees and shrubbery;</p> <p>(3) effect the apprehension and the prosecution of all persons violating Sections 8 and 9 of this Act;</p> <p>(c) The DPWH and the DA shall provide the technical support i.e. the necessary tools, equipment, and manpower to effect the implementation of this Act;</p> <p>(d) The DOT shall assist in the conceptualization and site-evaluation and cooperate in the maintenance of parks and specified areas and provide additional funding from its resources;</p> <p>(e) The DILG shall coordinate the local government units to ensure prompt and effective implementation of this Act; and</p> <p>(f) The DepEd shall integrate the tree-planting activities into the school curriculum to raise awareness and to promote environmental consciousness.</p>	<p>4) Assist the LGUs in the determination of the locality's urban greening initiative and identification of suitable areas to be planted with various species of indigenous and endemic plants, consistent with their approved Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and</p> <p>5) Maintain, nurture and monitor the health of trees and other plants throughout the implementation of this Act, in partnership with the LGUs.</p> <p>b) The LGU shall:</p> <p>1) Determine, establish and maintain suitable areas for the greening program;</p> <p>2) Ensure that the propagation and planting of indigenous and endemic plant species within the designated or specific sites in every barangay, municipality, city and province shall continue to enhance the aesthetic and ecological values of existing vegetation;</p>
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<p>(f) The DPWH shall provide the technical support, such as the necessary tools, equipment and manpower to effect the implementation of the Act.</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Mobilize all local concerned agencies and communities to ensure prompt and effective implementation of this Act in every barangay, municipality, city and province, and all public and private schools within their jurisdiction; 4) Encourage NGOs, foundations and other private entities to provide financial, physical or other kinds of support for the implementation of this Act; 5) Implement programs to maintain the growth and development of medicinal and healing gardens and other types of garden with plants of useful and scenic value, and provide for effective measures and ways to ensure the sustainable existence of these gardens; 6) Provide an environmental resource accounting of each forest tree and other plants to keep track of the growth and improvement of the vegetation and ecological balance in the area;
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		<p>7) Adopt a minimum standard of a local biodiversity index to evaluate and monitor the progress of the greening and biodiversity conservation efforts; and</p> <p>8) Effect the apprehension and the prosecution of all persons violating the provisions of this Act;</p> <p>c) The DPWH shall provide the tools and equipment necessary to prepare the sites for the planting of trees and indigenous and endemic plants;</p> <p>d) The DA shall provide technical assistance, planting materials that are site specific, tools, equipment and manpower;</p> <p>e) The DOT shall coordinate with the other agencies of the National Committee in the information dissemination and spearhead awareness programs, and integrate the greening programs with the existing sustainable tourism initiatives of the different government agencies and the</p>
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		<p>international community;</p> <p>f) The DILG shall oversee the greening activities of the LGUs and coordinate with the other government agencies to ensure prompt and effective implementation of this Act;</p> <p>g) The DepEd shall integrate and enforce the tree planting activities into the school curriculum and initiate programs to raise awareness and promote environmental consciousness and socio-environmental responsibility of students;</p> <p>h) The CHED shall educate and develop capability building activities and programs together with the LGUs, higher education institutions and professional and civic organizations; and</p> <p>i) The professional organizations and civic action groups shall provide technical inputs before any program, policy or regulatory framework are finalized by the National Committee.</p>
Sec. 7. Requirements for tree Planting Along National Roads. – All projects	SECTION 8. Requirements for Tree Planting along National Roads. In the	SEC. 8. <i>Tree Planting Along National Roads.</i> – All projects pertaining to tree

<p>concerning the construction and development of national roads shall comply with the following standard requirements:</p> <p>(a) Trees that will be planted along the national roads shall be of the varieties with the root systems which grow downward rather than sideward to avoid road and sidewalk slab destruction;</p> <p>(b) Trees shall be planted in a neat row, within the road right-of-way (ROW) and as close as possible to the ROW limit, with sufficient allowance so that fully grown trees will not encroach on the adjoining property or touch electric and other overhead utility lines;</p> <p>(c) The center-to-center spacing between trees shall be 10-20 meter (m). for road sections with a generally north-south alignment, the trees on one side of the road shall be planted alternately with the trees on the other side, thus ensuring adequate sunlight needed for drying the road;</p> <p>(d) For roads without curbs, the trees</p>	<p>consonance with the Department Order No. 15 of the Department of Public Works and Highways issued on the 24th of January 2000, all projects concerning to the construction and development of national roads shall comply with the following standard requirements:</p> <p>(a) The trees that will be planted along the national roads shall be of the varieties of the root systems which grow downward rather than sideward to avoid road and sidewalk slabs destruction;</p> <p>(b) Trees shall be planted in a neat row, within the road right-of-way (ROW) and as close as possible to the ROW limit, with sufficient allowance so that fully grown trees will not encroach on the adjoining property or touch electric and other overhead utility lines;</p> <p>(c) The center-to-center spacing between trees shall be 10-20 meters (m). For road sections with a generally north-south alignment, the trees on one side of the road shall be planted alternately with the trees on the other side, thus ensuring adequate sunlight needed</p>	<p>planting along national roads shall comply with the standard requirements of the DPWH and in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 11361, otherwise known as the “<i>Anti-Obstruction of Power Lines Act</i>,” and all other applicable existing laws.</p> <p>The DPWH shall, within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act and every one hundred eighty (180) days thereafter, submit periodic reports to the National Greening Committee.</p>
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<p>shall be planted with minimum clear distance of 0.60 meters beyond the edge of the shoulder, but in no case less than 0.30 meters from the edge of the pavement;</p> <p>(e) For roads with curbs, particularly in urban areas, the trees shall be planted with a minimum setback of 1.0 meter beyond the face of the curb;</p> <p>(f) Where there are longitudinal drainage canals, the trees shall be planted on the outer side of such canals;</p> <p>(g) On roadway curves and intersections, the pertinent design standards on sight distance shall be concerned;</p> <p>(h) Non-traversable hazard (ravine, waiting shed, and the like) along the line of trees shall be provided with appropriate clearly marked barriers so that these do not pose hazards to motorists; and</p> <p>(i) The DPWH, within ninety (90) days after the approval of the Act</p>	<p>for drying the road;</p> <p>(d) For roads without curbs, the trees shall be planted with minimum clear distance of 0.60 meters beyond the edge of the shoulder, but in no case less than 0.30 meters from the edge of the pavement;</p> <p>(e) For roads with curbs, particularly in urban areas, the trees shall be planted with a minimum setback of 1.00 meters beyond the face of the curb;</p> <p>(f) Where there are longitudinal drainage canals, the trees shall be planted on the outer side of such canals;</p> <p>(g) On roadway curves and intersections, the pertinent design standards on sight distance shall be concerned;</p> <p>(h) Non-traversable hazard (ravine, waiting shed, and the like) along the line of trees shall be provided with appropriate clearly marked barriers so that these do not pose hazards to motorists;</p>	
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and every one hundred eighty (180) days thereafter, submit periodic reports to the National Greening Committee.	(i) The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall, within ninety (90) days after the approval of the Act and every one hundred eighty (180) days thereafter, submit periodic reports to the National Greening Committee.	
<p>Sec. 8. Greening in Urban and Countryside Parks, Gardens, Public Vacant Lots, Pots, Containers and Other Permissible Areas. – Planting of trees, plants and all other kinds of vegetation shall be mandatory in urban and countryside parks and gardens as well as in school grounds, vacant lots, pots, receptacles and other unutilized sites identified with quality of soil where different or certain species of trees and other vegetation can thrive. This shall apply to all publicly-owned lands without exempting the properties of interested private individuals and institutions.</p> <p>(a) Scope. The areas covered by this provision shall include:</p> <p>(1) All public parks and gardens in urban and rural areas;</p> <p>(2) All public school grounds in</p>	<p>SECTION 9. Tree Planting in Urban and Countryside Parks, Public Vacant Lots, and Other Permissible Areas. Planting of Trees shall be mandatory in urban and countryside parks as well as in school grounds, vacant lots, and other unutilized sites identified with the quality of soil where different or certain species of trees can thrive. This shall apply to all publicly-owned lands, without exempting the properties of interested private individuals or institutions.</p> <p>(a) Scope. The areas covered by this provision shall include:</p> <p>(1) All public parks in urban and rural areas;</p> <p>(2) All public school grounds in the city and in the provinces;</p> <p>(3) All idle public lands in urban</p>	<p>SEC. 9. <i>Areas for Mandatory Tree Planting.</i> – The planting of indigenous, endemic, edible, medicinal or ornamental plants is mandatory in the following areas:</p> <p>a) All public parks and gardens in urban and rural areas;</p> <p>b) All public and private school grounds in the city and in the provinces;</p> <p>c) All idle public lands in urban and rural areas, unless otherwise identified for agriculture, infrastructure-building, and other similar purposes;</p> <p>d) Private parks, schools and other parcels of land voluntarily offered by private individuals, organizations, or institutions;</p>

<p>the city and in the provinces;</p> <p>(3) All idle public lands in urban and rural areas, unless otherwise identified to soon be used for other purposes such as agriculture, infrastructure-building and other public purposes;</p> <p>(4) Parks, schools and other pieces of land owned by private individuals, organizations and institutions whose proprietor(s) voluntarily and willingly subject their properties under this Act; and</p> <p>(5) All other receptacles, containers, and the like, which interested parties, whether public or private, volunteer to form part of the national greening initiatives under this Act.</p> <p>(b) General Guidelines. Planting of trees and all other forms of vegetation in the duly qualified areas shall comply with the following general guidelines:</p> <p>(1) Considering the classification</p>	<p>and rural areas, unless otherwise identified to soon be used for other purposes such as agriculture, infrastructure-building, and other;</p> <p>(4) Parks, schools and other pieces of land owned by private individuals, organizations, or institutions whose proprietor/s voluntarily and willingly subject their properties in this Act.</p> <p>(b) General Guidelines. Tree Planting in the duly qualified areas shall comply with the following guidelines:</p> <p>(1) Considering the classification and condition of the soil and the total land area of the site, suited species of forest trees or fast-growing trees shall be planted in the identified areas;</p> <p>(2) In cases wherein multiple trees can be planted, the trees should be planted in cluster wherein one is not more than four (4) meters apart from one another;</p>	<p>e) Gardens, roof spaces, sidewalks, vertical gardens, perimeter fences, pots, other receptacles and the like, which interested parties, whether public or private, volunteer to form part of the areas designated for planting under this Act; and</p> <p>f) All non-functional open spaces.</p>
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<p>and condition of the soil and the total land area of the site, suitable species of trees, plants and other forms of vegetation shall be planted in the identified areas;</p> <p>(2) In cases where multiple trees or vegetation can be planted, the same should be planted in clusters, wherein one is not more than four (4) meters apart from one another;</p> <p>(3) The Regional Greening Committee shall facilitate and supervise all the greening activities in its jurisdiction. The government agencies concerned shall perform their duties and responsibilities as indicated in Section 6 of this Act; and</p> <p>(4) The Regional Greening Committee shall, within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act and every one hundred eighty (180) days thereafter, submit periodic reports to the National Greening Committee.</p>	<p>(3) The Regional Greening Committee shall facilitate and supervise all the tree-planting activities in its jurisdiction. The government agencies concerned shall perform their duties and responsibilities as indicated in Section 7, Specific Functions of the Executive Department, of this Act;</p> <p>(4) The Regional Greening Committee shall, within ninety (90) days after the approval of the Act and every one hundred eighty (180) days, thereafter submit periodic reports to the National Greening Committee.</p>	
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<p>Sec. 9. Issuing of Permits. – The issuance of permit allowing a person or company to cut, uproot or in any way disturb the planted trees and greeneries given by the DENR should also be approved and signed by the Regional Committee following public consultations done by and the consensus of the Regional Committee.</p>	<p>SECTION 10. Issuing of Permits. The Issuance of Permit allowing a person or company to cut, uproot and in any way disturb the planted trees given by the DENR should also be approved and co-signed by the Regional Committee following public consultations done by and the consensus of the Regional Committee.</p>	
		<p>SEC. 10. General Guidelines. – Tree planting in the duly designated areas is covered by the following general guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Determine the suitability of the species to be planted and the appropriate planting method based on the existing environmental condition after a thorough assessment of the biodiversity in the identified area; b) Establish a nursery of indigenous and endemic species to have a stable and constant source of plant species needed and appropriate for specific areas; c) Source the seedlings locally for cost efficiency, adaptation to local conditions and risk reduction of altering the natural gene flow of the plant species;

		<p>d) Replant the same species of the initially planted trees or plants that did not survive or thrive to ensure the continuous greening of a specific area; and</p> <p>e) Plant the trees in clusters and observe the distance of four (4) meters between the trees in areas where multiple trees may be planted.</p> <p>The regional greening committee shall facilitate and supervise all the tree-planting activities in its jurisdiction and shall, within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, and every one hundred eighty (180) days thereafter, submit periodic reports to the National Committee.</p>
<p>Sec. 10. <i>Prohibited Acts.</i> – No cutting and destroying of trees, plants and other vegetation shall be permitted, except when the cutting and destroying of the same is necessary for public safety and subject to the issuance of permits.</p>	<p>SECTION 11. <i>Prohibited Acts.</i> No cutting and destroying of trees and plants shall be permitted, except when the cutting and destroying of the same is necessary for public safety, and subject to the issuance of permits.</p>	<p>SEC. 11. <i>Prohibited Acts.</i> – Notwithstanding the provisions of existing laws on the cutting of trees, it shall be unlawful for any person to cut, destroy, uproot, injure or in any way disturb any tree or plant along public roads, in plazas, parks and school premises, and in areas designated by the National Committee without a permit issued by the local environment and natural resources officer, following public consultations and the endorsement by the regional greening</p>

		committee.
<p>Sec 11. <i>Persons Liable and Penalties Therefor.</i> – Any person who violates Sections 7, 8 and 9 shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months to not more than one (1) year or a fine of not less than Three Thousand pesos (P3,000.00) nor more than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.</p>	<p>SECTION 12. <i>Persons liable and Penalties Therefore.</i> Any person who violates Sections 9 and 10 shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months to not more than one (1) year or a fine of not less than three thousand pesos to not more than ten thousand pesos, or with both imprisonment and fine, at the discretion of the court.</p>	<p>SEC. 12. <i>Penalties.</i> – Any person who violates the provision of Section 11 of this Act shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than two (2) years and four (4) months but not more than eight (8) years or a fine of not less than Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00) nor more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.</p> <p>If the offender is a corporation or other juridical entity, the president, manager, or any officer who directly participated in the violation of the provision of Section 11 of this Act shall be held liable.</p> <p>The local environment and natural resources officer who unlawfully issued the permit to cut, destroy, uproot or in any way disturb any tree or plant in areas designated by the National Committee shall suffer the penalty of dismissal from the service.</p>
<p>Sec. 12. <i>Submission of Reports.</i> – The National Greening Committee shall within ninety (90) days after approval of this Act and every one hundred eighty (180) days thereafter submit periodic reports to both house of Congress of the Philippines for</p>	<p>SECTION 13. <i>Submission of Reports.</i> The National Committee shall within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act and every one hundred eighty (180) days thereafter submit periodic reports to both Houses of Congress of the</p>	<p>SEC. 13. <i>Submission of Reports.</i> – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the National Committee shall submit a status report on the progress of the greening program to both Houses of Congress. Thereafter, periodic reports</p>

evaluation and consideration.	Philippines for evaluation and consideration.	shall be submitted every one hundred eighty (180) days.
Sec. 13. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of the Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.	SECTION 14. Funding. The fund needed for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from any available appropriation in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the year of its implementation; Provided, that funds for this purpose shall also be included in every annual GAA; Provided finally, that there shall be equitable and proportionate appropriations of funds annually for this purpose for all barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces. In addition, adequate portion of financial grants and concessional loans extended to Philippines by foreign governments and multilateral agencies every year, the amount to be determined by the President, shall be allocated to augment the annual appropriations until this Act is fully implemented.	SEC. 14. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the DENR and other member agencies of the National Committee. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. LGUs shall allocate counterpart funds to be taken from their Internal Revenue Allotment and other LGU income for the greening program within their respective territorial jurisdiction.
		SEC. 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall, in coordination with the heads of the member agencies of the National Committee, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
Sec. 15. Separability Clause. – If any part	SECTION 15. Separability Clause. All	SEC. 16. Separability Clause. – If any

or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected shall continue to remain in full force and effect.	laws, decrees, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.	provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.
Sec. 14. <i>Repealing Clause.</i> – All laws, orders, rules and regulations and other issuance or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.		SEC. 17. <i>Repealing Clause.</i> – Republic Act No. 3571, entitled “ <i>An Act to Prohibit the Cutting, Destroying or Injuring of Planted or Growing Trees, Flowering Plants and Shrubs or Plants of Scenic Value Along Public Roads, in Plazas, Parks, School Premises or in Any Other Public Ground</i> ” is repealed. All other laws, decrees, rules and regulations, orders, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed, modified or amended accordingly.
Sec. 16. <i>Effectivity.</i> – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the <i>Official Gazette</i> or in a newspaper of general circulation. <i>Approved,</i>	SECTION 16. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect upon its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation. <i>Approved,</i>	SEC. 18. <i>Effectivity.</i> – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the <i>Official Gazette</i> or in any newspaper of general circulation. <i>Approved,</i>