**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**MUNICIPALITY/ CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Sangguniang Bayan / Panlungsod**

**Municipal/ City Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COASTAL GREENBELT ZONE AND ADOPTING A LOCAL COASTAL GREENBELT MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY/CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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Sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Co-Sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

***WHEREAS,***amidst the threat of the changing climate and the continued rise in the sea level, experts predict that typhoons are expected to become more and more devastating over the coming years;

***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,*** scientists have also shown that aside from coastal protection, mangroves and beach forests have the capability to store and sequester greenhouse gases in the atmosphere even greater than that of tropical forests;

***WHEREAS,*** despite the ecosystem services offered,mangroves remain severely threatened and are being cleared at an alarming rate. In fact, about fifty percentof the mangroves in the country have been lost due to coastal development projects such as land development/reclamation, deforestation for fuel, and aquaculture;

***WHEREAS,*** being one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world with an average of 20-25 typhoons annually visiting the country, it is imperative to take immediate action to manage the impending threat of climate change and create and implement science based policies for the restoration and generation of mangroves;

***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 the establishment of tree parks, greenbelts, and similar forest development projects and promote passage of these ordinances with support from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional offices.

***NOW THEREFORE,*** be it enacted by the Sangguniang Bayan/Panlungsod of the Municipality/City of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ duly assembled:

**SECTION 1. Short Title. *–*** This Act shall be known as the “Coastal Greenbelt Ordinance.”

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. *–*** Recognizing the vulnerability of coastal communities to natural disasters and the important role played by mangroves and beach forest species in climate stabilization, blue carbon storage and sequestration, and in mitigating the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property, it is hereby the declared policy of this City/Municipality to advance the general welfare and the people’s right a balanced and healthful ecology by designating coastal greenbelt zones within our primary jurisdiction to better build disaster resilience of communities, reduce disaster risks, mitigate the impacts of climate change, while at the same time preserving the mangrove ecosystems. In addition, it seeks to:

1. Develop and promote a local coastal greenbelt management action plan which adopts the precautionary principle, ecosystems-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 academe 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 zone.

**SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. *–*** As used in this Ordinance:

1. Beach Forest refers to a narrow strip of woodland along the sandy and gravelly beaches of the seacoast dominated by Terminalia catappa, Casuarina equisetifolia, Barringtonia asiatica, Sonneratia caseolaris, Acacia farnesiana and Erythrina orientalis.
2. 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.
3. 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 sea ward limit of 200 meters isobath to include coral reefs, algal flats, seagrass beds and other soft-bottom areas.
4. Civil Society Organizations or CSOs refers 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 or philanthropic considerations. CSOs include nongovernment organizations (NGOs), professional associations, foundations, independent research institutes, and community-based organizations.
5. Designated areas refers 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, reforestation, or afforestation 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 specifies.
6. Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan 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 city/municipality.
7. Mangroves refer to a community of intertidal plants including all species of trees, shrubs, vines and herbs found on coasts, swamps, or border of swamps.

**SECTION 4. Establishment of a Coastal Greenbelt Zone.** - There is hereby established and designated a Coastal Greenbelt Zone with an area consisting of approximately \_\_\_\_\_\_\_hectares and with the following technical descriptions the following coordinates and technical description, as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Point | Latitude | Longitude |
| Beginning at | 1 |  |  |
| To | 2 |  |  |
| To | 3 |  |  |
| To | 4 |  |  |
| Then back to Point 1 | |  |  |
| **Total** |  | | |

The area shall be provided with boundary buoys/markers in every corner of the Marine Protected Area. The markers should be visible for easy identification and location.

**SECTION 5. Creation of the Coastal Greenbelt Zone Committee. –** For the purpose of managing the coastal greenbelt zone and implementing the coastal greenbelt zone plan, there is hereby created a Coastal Greenbelt Zone Committee which shall be composed of the following:

1. Local Chief Executive as the Chairperson or his authorized representative;
2. Chairman of the Environment Committee of the Sanggunian;
3. Chairman of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee of the Sanggunian;
4. Municipal/City Planning Development Officer;
5. Municipal/City Environment and Natural Resources Officer and/or Municipal/City Agriculture Officer;
6. A representative from an academic institution, preferably an expert in mangrove and beach forest ecosystems, oceanography, or other related disciplines who is based locally;
7. A representative from the private sector;
8. A representative from a civil society organization;
9. A representative from a youth or women organizations.

The Municipal/City Environment and Natural Resources Officer and/or Municipal/City Agriculture Officer shall serve as the Secretariat and direct implementor of the management interventions relative to the coastal greenbelt zone.

**SECTION 6. Powers and Functions.-** The Coastal Greenbelt Zone Committee shall be responsible for the following powers and functions:

1. Manage the designated local coastal greenbelt zone;
2. Prepare and implement the Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (LCGMAP).
3. Lead in the actual implementation of rehabilitation, reforestation, and afforestation, through the coastal barangays;
4. Integrate the LCGMAP within their respective development plans, land use plans, climate change action plan and other relevant development and sectoral plans within two (5) years from the effectivity of the Ordinance;
5. Oversee and undertake continuous monitoring and assessment of the implementation of LCGMAP;
6. Convene and organize quarterly meetings
7. Recommend policies relating to the enforcement of the Ordinance and/or identification and designation of additional coastal greenbelt zones
8. Create appropriate committees, such as Technical Working Group (TWG), Education Committee, and Monitoring and Enforcement Committee.

**SECTION 7. Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan.-** LCGMAP shall at the minimum, contain the following:

1. Inventory or assessment of the status of coastlines and foreshores, including the status of mangroves, beach forests, settlements, structures and fishponds within the coastal greenbelt zone.
2. Operational Plan which outlines the program for rehabilitation, reforestation and afforestation of the local coastal greenbelt zone, including the operational plan for the reversion of all technically abandoned fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species.
3. Operational Plan for the removal of illegal permanent structures (such as breakwaters and the like) in the local coastal greenbelt zones.

**SECTION 8. Prohibited Acts and Penalties.-** Activities such as cutting of mangroves and beach forest species, dumping of trash and other activities that are not consistent with this ordinance and the LCGMAP shall be prohibited. A fine of two thousand five hundred pesos (P2,500.00) per person per offense or imprisonment of one (1) to two (2) months at the discretion of the Court, shall be charged to any person caught in violation of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 9. Roles of Civil Society and the Private Sector.** **–** In the development and implementation of the LCGMAP, 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 10. Appropriations**. **–** The municipality/city shall allocate from its annual appropriations adequate funds for the efficient implementation of this Ordinance. The fund for the program shall cover the implementation including continuing capacity building, education, enforcement and monitoring.

**SECTION 11. Annual Report. –** The Coastal Greenbelt Zone Committee shall submit an annual report to the Sanggunian and the Office of the Mayor on implementation of this Ordinance every six months following the effectivity of this Act.

**SECTION 12. Severability.** – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

**SECTION 13. Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, decrees, orders, resolutions, instructions, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 14. Non-impairment Clause.** – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal the prohibited acts under existing laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances, including Republic Act 11038 and Republic Act 8550, as amended by Republic Act 10654.

**SECTION 15. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of local circulation or posting in at least two (2) conspicuous places in the Municipality/City.

Approved.