



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 27
Series of 2021

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE POLICY ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE PROVINCE OF
OCCIDENTAL MINDORO**

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7586 as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, otherwise known as the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, and Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 mandate and state to protect and conserve biological diversity;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 578 was implemented by the President of the Philippines establishing the national policy on biological diversity, prescribing its implementation throughout the country;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 provides in its general welfare clause that within their respective territorial jurisdictions, local government units shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology;

WHEREAS, biological diversity, also referred to as biodiversity, is essential to sustain all life and is a foundation of a sound environment that is necessary for human well-being and sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the province of Occidental Mindoro is one of the biodiversity hotspots of the country where biological diversity is under constant threat due to unsustainable resource use practices, overexploitation, population pressure, poverty and other factors;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDUARDO B. GADIANO, Governor of the Province of Occidental Mindoro, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. POLICY ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.

In accordance with law, it is the policy of the Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro to protect, conserve, and sustainably use biological diversity to ensure and secure the well-being of present and future generations of the people of Occidental Mindoro. The policy extends to all the components of biodiversity – ecosystems, species and genes. The province shall integrate and mainstream the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into their policies, rules and regulations, programs, projects and development planning process.



SECTION 2. ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY.

Recognizing that the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a shared responsibility among all sectors, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) and all concerned government agencies and offices shall actively engage and collaborate with the private sector, civil society, and local communities so that biological diversity goals are incorporated in their respective programs and activities, including institutionalizing biodiversity conservation as a principal corporate environmental responsibility. Public participation in protection, conservation and sustainable use activities, especially at the local level, shall be encouraged to maximize conservation and community benefits.

SECTION 3. GUIDELINES ON CRITICAL HABITATS AND KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS.

To implement the policy on biological diversity, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) shall, in accordance with law and subject to public consultations, develop and promulgate rules, and regulations for the establishment of critical habitats within key biodiversity areas which are known to harbor habitats and ecosystems critical for the survival of threatened, restricted-range, and congregatory species, and provide the guidelines for their management and protection. Biodiversity impact assessment shall be integrated into the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Environmental Risk Assessment Process, taking into consideration guidelines adopted under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Such rules, regulations and guidelines shall be issued within sixty days from the effectivity of this Order.

SECTION 4. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY ON BIODIVERSITY.

In addition to the preceding section, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office shall undertake the following tasks:

1. Review and update policies concerning the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
2. Create and organize an Ad Hoc Task Force Biodiversity to ensure the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the province of Occidental Mindoro; and,
3. Identify other biodiversity areas within the province that require urgent attention and formulate appropriate conservation and management strategies;
4. Provide for a registry map of all wetlands and water bodies within its administrative jurisdiction, as well as wetland profile, management plan and corresponding regular implementation reports for those with identified income-generating uses e.g. waterfalls or lake used for ecotourism;
5. Implement Ordinances or Resolutions establishing wetland/s as conservation area or with protection purposes; and,
6. Establish partnership agreement with the local DENR and/or other stakeholder on conservation or wise use of certain wetland.



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SECTION 5. REPEALING CLAUSE.

All executive orders, rules and regulation and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.

Any portion or provision of this Executive Order that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying its other portions or provisions, as long as such remaining portions can still be given effect.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until repealed or revoked.

DONE in the province of Occidental Mindoro, this 1st day of December, 2021.


EDUARDO B. GADIANO
Governor