



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bohol
MUNICIPALITY OF LOON

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 22ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE 11TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF LOON, PROVINCE OF BOHOL HELD ON THE 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2010 AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL-

PRESENT:

Hon. Titus Clark U. Miranda,	SB Member, Acting Presiding Officer
Hon. Edwin R. Ladeza,	Vice-Mayor
Hon. Timoteo L. Legitimas,	SB Member
Hon. Manuel R. Veloso,	SB Member
Hon. Ignacio M. Castil, Jr.,	SB Member
Hon. Josephat B. Palma,	SB Member
Hon. Ricky U. Masamayor,	SB Member
Hon. Priscila C. Branzuela,	SB Member
Hon. Damaso C. Pasilbas	SB Member
Hon. Cesar R. Pedrigal,	LnB President, Ex Officio Member

ABSENT:

None

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 10-011
Series of 2010

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE COASTAL SWAMPS OF CANTOMUCAD, PONDOL, AND CATAGBACAN HANDIG, LOON, BOHOL AS PROTECTED AREA FOR NATURE CONSERVATION, MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH, AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, AND SETTING GUIDELINES FOR THEIR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOON MACAQUES HABITAT ORDINANCE

Be it ordained by the 11th Sangguniang Bayan of Loon, Bohol in session duly assembled:

WHEREAS, the coastal swamps in the barangays of Cantomucad, Pondol and Catagbacan Handig are home to a variety of wildlife which include nipa (*Nypa fruticans*), mangroves, macaques (*Macaca fascicularis philippinensis*), birds, and various marine organisms including fish, crustaceans, shellfish, and others;

WHEREAS, the presence of the macaque monkeys in the swamps has been widely known to the public and, as a result, the animals have been frequently visited by tourists and curiosity seekers;

WHEREAS, the swamps need to be protected as a showcase for nature conservation, ecosystem research, and tourism development, all of which generate livelihood for the immediate communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, premises considered, be it enacted by the 11th Sangguniang Bayan of Loon, Bohol in session duly assembled;

Section 1. Title

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE COASTAL SWAMPS OF CANTOMUCAD PONDOL, AND CATAGBACAN HANDIG, LOON, BOHOL AS PROTECTED AREA FOR NATURE CONSERVATION, ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH, AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, AND SETTING GUIDELINES FOR THEIR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOON MACAQUES HABITAT ORDINANCE -

Section 2. Definition of Terms

- 2.a. *Swamp* - a piece of soft land that is permanently or periodically covered with water and characterized by growths of shrubs and trees, mainly mangroves.
- 2.b. *Protected Area* – a district or zone that is protected for its biodiversity, geology or landscape and has ecological, esthetic, educational or scientific value. In particular, it refers to the mangrove swamps of Cantomucad, Pondol and Catagbacan Handig.
- 2.c. *Mangrove* - any tropical evergreen tree or shrub having stilt-like intertwining aerial roots and growing below the highest tide levels in estuaries and along coasts, forming dense thickets; and any of various similar shrubs or trees that grow in swampy areas.
- 2.d. *Wildlife* – any plant or animal found naturally in a wild state or in its natural habitat.
- 2.e. *Biodiversity* – the variability of living organisms, including diversity within species, in a defined area or ecosystem.
- 2.f. *Ecosystem* – a system made up of a community of animals, plants and microorganisms interrelated together with its physical and chemical environment. It is also the interrelationship of living organisms inhabiting a particular area, together with their environment and all their interrelationships and relationships with the environment. It is characterized by the description of populations; the abundance of individual species; relationships between species; activity of organisms; physical and chemical characteristics of environment; flows of matter and energy; and description of changes of these parameters with time.
- 2.g. *Research* - any systematic investigation that involves gathering of data and information to advance knowledge or establish facts.
- 2.h. *Basic Research* – also known as fundamental or pure research, is research carried out to increase understanding of fundamental principles.
- 2.i. *Applied research* - research that accesses and uses some part of the research or science community's accumulated theories, knowledge, methods, and techniques for a specific or client-driven purpose.
- 2.j. *Macaque* – a name for Old World monkeys of the genus *Macaca* that is widely distributed especially in Asia. In this ordinance, it is referred to as

the crab-eating species of mangrove monkeys scientifically known as *Macaca fascicularis philippinensis*.

2.k. *Poaching* - an unlawful practice in which an animal is hunted illegally mainly for commercial reasons. It is an illegal practice because the poacher is not a licensed hunter; the hunted animal is an endangered species or dwells in a restricted area; the poacher does not have a legal right to hunt the animal; the means adopted by the poacher do not conform to the prescribed norms laid down by the concerned authorities; and the animal is tagged beforehand for research purposes.

2.l. *Local Government Unit* – refers to the municipal government of Loon.

Section 3. Demarcation, Technical Description and Other Requirements

3.a. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), the Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO), and other concerned government agencies shall be consulted in regard to the demarcation and technical description of the swamps of Cantomucad, Pondol and Catagbacan Handig as a protected area. At the national level, and whenever necessary or required by law, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of DENR shall be consulted.

3.b. The Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) and other concerned departments and offices of the Local Government Unit of Loon, with pertinent directives from the Local Chief Executive, shall facilitate compliance with the technical and documentary requirements enforced by government agencies in regard to the establishment and sustained management of the protected area.

3.c. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) shall also be consulted in regard to any fishery-related livelihood project within or in the adjoining area.

Section 4. Activities that are Allowed within the Protected Area

4.a. Basic and applied research on mangrove ecosystem;

4.b. Recreational or educational tours on foot or aboard outrigger boats or any similar vessel;

4.c. Fishing and gleaning for shellfish and other economically important marine life using traditional and non-destructive methods;

4.d. Collection of mangrove propagules for replanting or livelihood purposes;

4.e. Planting of mangroves and seeding of juveniles of marine species that are endemic to the area but have dwindled in number owing to human or environmental interventions; and

4.f. Gathering of driftwood and dead plant parts; wood, plastic or glass materials; and anything that are washed ashore or deposited from the mainland by flood flow, with the purpose of cleaning up the area or recycling the materials collected.

Section 5. Activities that are Prohibited within the Protected Area

- 5.a. Fishing and gleaning for shellfish and other economically important marine life using methods that are prohibited by law;
- 5.b. Bending of mangrove branches and cutting of trees;
- 5.c. Throwing, disposing or burning of garbage of any kind;
- 5.d. Poaching and hunting for wildlife;
- 5.e. Feeding the macaques outside the designated area at the Loon Macaques Habitat boardwalk facility; and
- 5.f. Construction of boardwalks, buildings or any similar structures with the main purpose of duplicating the Loon Macaques boardwalk facility.

Section 6. Mangrove Ecosystem Research and Development Center (MERDEV)

- 6.a. The Mangrove Ecosystem Research and Development Center shall pursue research, development and extension (RDE) functions to provide science-based strategies for the sustainable management of mangrove swamps.
- 6.b. MERDEV'S vision is "A center for relevant research, development and extension for a healthy and balanced ecosystem of mangrove swamps and the sustainability of their resources."
- 6.c. MERDEV'S mission is to conduct appropriate research and dissemination of information on mangrove swamps to enhance the productivity and sustainability of their resources, protect the environment, and provide livelihood to the community.
- 6.d. In carrying out its mission, MERDEV shall have the following mandates:
 - 6.d.1. Formulates an integrated research and development program on mangrove ecosystem;
 - 6.d.2. Conducts research to generate technologies and information on the sustainable management and use of mangrove swamps and their resources;
 - 6.d.3. Disseminates research information and technology through appropriate methods or processes;
 - 6.d.4. Establishes linkage with various government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), local government units (LGUs), and other RDE centers, agencies and institutions;
 - 6.d.5. Prepares proposals for programs, projects and activities for funding by the Local Government Unit and outside donors;
 - 6.d.6. Prepares quarterly and annual reports on its RDE activities; and
 - 6.d.7. Generates income for the Local Government Unit from entrance fees and donations of individuals and groups on study tour; from

service charges for requested information; and from other appropriate sources.

Section 7. Operation and Management of the Mangrove Ecosystem Research and Development Center (MERDEV)

- 7.a. MERDEV shall be established in the barangay of Pondol as a special unit of the Office of the Mayor. It shall complement the mandates of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO).
- 7.b. It shall be headed by a Center Director and manned by qualified personnel and staff all of whom shall be remunerated for their services charged to local funds.
- 7.c. It shall be provided with the necessary structures, equipment, supplies and materials, and other logistics.
- 7.d. The income that MERDEV generates shall be held in trust and utilized for its operational needs. A portion of the revenue that shall go to the Barangay Treasury of Pondol shall be determined and agreed upon by the Local Government Unit and the barangay council.
- 7.e. As a government center, it shall subject all its financial transactions to the standard operating procedures adopted by the Local Government Unit.

Section 8. Loon Macaques Habitat as Educational Site and Tourist Destination

The Loon Macaques Habitat shall be established in the swamps of Cantomucad for the following purposes:

- 8.a. To serve as learning site for mangrove and wildlife conservation;
- 8.b. To provide visitors activities that include, among others, the following:
 - 8.b.1. Walking through a footbridge or boardwalk;
 - 8.b.2. Viewing or taking photographs of wildlife that includes mangroves, macaques, birds, crustaceans, shellfish, and others;
 - 8.b.3. Boating and rowing or kayaking; and
 - 8.b.4. Fishing and gleaning for crustaceans, shellfish and other marine life.
- 8.c. To showcase local culture and crafts; and
- 8.d. To generate revenue for the Local Government Unit and provide alternative livelihood for the community through sale of locally produced souvenirs and delicacies, and tourism-related activities and services.

Section 9. Prohibited Acts of Visitors within the Loon Macaques Habitat

- 9.a. Monkeying around or making unnecessary noise;
- 9.b. Throwing of garbage anywhere;
- 9.c. Feeding the monkeys (Only authorized caretakers are allowed to feed the animals.);
- 9.d. Throwing anything at the monkeys;

- 9.e. Smoking, eating or drinking;
- 9.f. Cutting or bending the branches of trees;
- 9.g. Sneaking into the boardwalk from any illegal access;
- 9.h. Staying on the boardwalk for more than 30 minutes;
- 9.i. Bringing in of guns and explosives, and other deadly weapons; and
- 9.j. Other acts that are deemed prohibited owing to their negative or dangerous effects.

Section 10. Operation and Management of the Loon Macaques Habitat

- 10.a. The Loon Macaques Habitat shall be established as an economic enterprise under the Office of the Mayor. It shall operationalize the mandates of the Municipal Tourism Office.
- 10.b. It shall be manned by a manager, assistant manager, tour guides, animal caretakers, sales clerk, assistant sales clerk and security guard whose duties and responsibilities are as follows:
 - 10.b.1. Manager
 - 10.b.1.a. Serves as the main guest relations staff;
 - 10.b.1.b. Provides overall supervision of the personnel;
 - 10.b.1.c. Manages the day-to-day operation of the facility; and
 - 10.b.1.d. Renders pertinent weekly reports to the Office of the Mayor through the Municipal Tourism Office.
 - 10.b.2. Assistant Manager
 - 10.b.2.a. Assists in the performance of the duties and responsibilities of the manager;
 - 10.b.2.b. Issues entrance tickets and receives payment;
 - 10.b.2.c. Coordinates with the Barangay Treasurer of Cantomucad in regard to the barangay's share of the proceeds from entrance fees; and
 - 10.b.2.d. Remits the daily collection to the Municipal Treasurer.
 - 10.b.3. Tour Guides and Facilitators
 - 10.b.3.a. Receive tourists and visitors and facilitate the tour;
 - 10.b.3.b. Conduct pre-tour lecture and briefing, and distribute information materials; and
 - 10.b.3.c. Manage traffic of tourists and ensure their safety.
 - 10.b.4. Animal Caretaker

- 10.b.4.a. Take charge of the food and safety of the macaques;
- 10.b.4.b. Regulate feeding of the animals;
- 10.b.4.c. Maintain cleanliness of the habitat;
- 10.b.4.d. Ensure the safety and welfare of the tourists; and
- 10.b.4.e. Monitor strange behavior of the macaques.
- 10.b.5. Sales Clerk
 - 10.b.5.a. Serves as cashier of the souvenir shop;
 - 10.b.5.b. Coordinates with the suppliers of the souvenir items in regard to the consignment and sale of their goods; and
 - 10.b.5.c. Remits daily the sales proceeds to the concerned suppliers and the share of the Local Government Unit to the Municipal Treasurer.
- 10.b.6. Assistant Sales Clerk
 - 10.b.6.a. Serves as main saleslady for the souvenirs on sale.
- 10.b.7. Security Guard
 - 10.b.7.a. Secures the safety of both people and property within the tourist facility; and
 - 10.b.7.b. Reports to concerned authorities any threat to peace and order and any incident in the area that need the latter's attention.
- 10.c. The above-named personnel and staff shall follow a work schedule prepared by the Municipal Tourism Office and adopt the recommendations of the Municipal Tourism Council and Municipal Tourism Technical Working Group. They shall also undergo training to improve their skills and capabilities.
- 10.d. All financial transactions of the Loon Macaques Habitat shall be subject to the standard operating procedures adopted by the Local Government Unit.

Section 11. Workers' Wages and Other Benefits

- 11.a. Initially, the manager and assistant manager shall receive a daily wage of Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (P250.00). The other personnel and staff shall be paid Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) per day. These wage rates shall be adjusted whenever deemed necessary and subject to availability of funds.
- 11.b. The wages of the above-named personnel and staff shall initially be charged to the twenty percent (20%) Development Fund for Tourism. Thereafter, they shall be charged to the trust fund created for the income generated from the tourist destination.
- 11.c. The Local Government Unit shall allocate funds for staff development training and similar capability-building activities.

- 11.d. The personnel and staff shall enjoy benefits like health and accident insurance and other incentives depending on availability of funds.

Section 12. Work Ethics of the Personnel and Staff of the Loon Macaques Habitat

- 12.a. All personnel and staff must be knowledgeable about the protected area in general and the macaques habitat in particular.
- 12.b. They shall report to work in their prescribed uniform.
- 12.c. They shall see to it that children below seven (7) years old must be accompanied by adults. If deemed necessary, they shall require the accompanying adults to sign a waiver stating thereon that the management shall not be responsible for any untoward incident that may happen to their wards.
- 12.d. They are not allowed to admit their relatives and friends as well as those of barangay officials for free, or give them souvenirs charged to the Local Government Unit.
- 12.e. Text messaging or phone conversations on private matters are disallowed during working hours except in emergency cases.
- 12.f. Sleeping on the job is strictly prohibited.
- 12.g. All personnel and staff are not allowed to accept tips. They, however, may provide a donation box for visitors who volunteer to pay extra.
- 12.h. Any application for leave of absence shall be approved by the Manager. The latter's leave application shall be submitted to the Office of the Mayor through the Municipal Tourism Officer.

Section 13. Entrance Fees, Donations and Other Revenues

- 13.a. An entrance fee of Twenty Pesos (P20.00) shall be charged as patrimony rate for local tourists. Non-Filipinos shall pay Forty Pesos (P40.00). These fees shall be increased subject to the assessment of the Municipal Tourism Council and approval of the Sangguniang Bayan of Loon.
- 13.b. Ten percent (10%) of the entrance fee shall go to the coffers of Barangay Cantomucad. The remaining ninety percent (90%) shall be held in trust for the sustained operation and maintenance of the tourism facility, and tourism-related infrastructure projects, education, healthcare and other social services by the LGU and the barangays.
- 13.c. There shall be a group incentive by way of discount of twenty percent (20%) for group tourists of not less than 10 persons, excluding the driver, conductor, tour guide/s who will be given free entrance. For this purpose, a separate book for group tour shall be provided therein, subject for signature of the tour agent/guide, or responsible group head.
- 13.d. The donations shall be treated as separate trust fund for the purchase of the daily needs of the tourism facility like food for the animals, as well as other supplies and materials that are needed immediately.

Section 14. Livelihood Opportunities

- 14.a. The Loon Macaques Habitat shall provide livelihood opportunities for the communities situated in the barangays adjoining the protected area. These opportunities will include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 14.a.1. Sale of locally manufactured souvenir items;
 - 14.a.2. Sale of native delicacies;
 - 14.a.3. Services for boating and rowing or kayaking and other tourism-related services; and
 - 14.a.4. Collection of parking fees.

Section 15. Rules and Regulations on the Sale of Souvenir Items and Food

- 15.a. Being a research facility, the Mangrove Ecosystem Research and Development Center (MERDEV) shall not provide a venue for the sale of souvenir items and food.
- 15.b. All items sold in the souvenir shop at the Loon Macaques Habitat must be products of Loon, including and most especially those manufactured in the barangays adjoining the protected area. They can also be products manufactured elsewhere but showcasing the tourist destinations of Loon and their features. Being the host barangay, however, Cantomucad shall supply not more than 75 percent (75%) of the items sold. The remaining twenty five percent (25%) shall be proportionately supplied by the other barangays.
- 15.c. Suppliers of souvenir items are strictly not allowed to personally sell their goods at the tourist facility. Instead, they are enjoined to consign them to the souvenir shop at the Loon Macaques Habitat.
- 15.d. Both the suppliers and the sales clerks of the souvenir shop shall conduct daily a proper accounting of the consigned goods and sales proceeds.
- 15.e. A ten-percent (10%) mark-up on the price of every souvenir item sold shall go to the coffers of the Local Government Unit.
- 15.f. All items on sale must be properly color-coded based on their barangay suppliers, i.e. yellow for Cantomucad, green for Pondol, and red for Catagbacan Handig.
- 15.g. For a smooth operation of the souvenir shop, the Local Government Unit shall provide the necessary logistics like price tags or labels, cash register, tables and chairs, and others.
- 15.h. Ambulant vending of souvenir items shall be strictly prohibited. The sale of native delicacies, however, shall be allowed only near the loading and unloading area for tourists and visitors.

Section 16. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 16.a. The Local Government Unit, through the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, the Municipal Agriculture Office, and other concerned departments and offices shall monitor and assess the facilities, performance and needs of the Mangrove Ecosystem Research and Development Center (MERDEV) and make recommendations for future developments.
- 16.b. The Local Government Unit, in coordination with its concerned departments and offices as well as the Municipal Tourism Council, shall evaluate and assess the facilities, performance as an economic enterprise, and needs of the Loon Macaques Habitat and recommend activities for its further improvement and sustainable management.

Section 17. Roles of the Barangay Councils

- 17.a. The barangay councils of Pondol and Cantomucad, through their respective Barangay Tanods, shall complement the security personnel of the Mangrove Ecosystem Research and Development Center (MERDEV) and Loon Macaques Habitat, respectively, especially at nighttime and during peak seasons for visitors. Those of Catagbacan Handig shall be tapped as the need arises.
- 17.b. All barangay councils are encouraged to implement programs and projects that enhance the local production of souvenir items and delicacies and the development of complementary livelihood activities for their constituents.

Section 18. Penal Provision.

18.a. Any violation to the provisions of this ordinance especially on the prohibited acts shall be fined:

First offense	- P 250.00
Second offense	- P 500.00
Third offense	- P1,500.00
Succeeding offenses	- P2,500.00

- 18.b. Commission of other prohibited acts like bringing in of guns and explosives, and other deadly weapons, shall be penalized based on the Revised Penal Code or special penal laws.
- 18.c. Personnel and staff violating their work ethics shall be suspended or their services terminated depending on the gravity of their violations as determined by the Local Government Unit.

Section 19. Repealing Clause

Any existing ordinance which is inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 20. Effectivity Clause

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval and posting in the barangays of Cantomucad, Pondol and Catagbacan Handig, this Municipality.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

-----oOo-----

I hereby certify to the correctness of the above-quoted ordinance.

TITUS CLARK U. MIRANDA
SB Member
Acting Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

FIDELINO P. CORITICO, LLB
Secretary to the Sanggunian

NOTED:

EDWIN R. LADEZA
Vice-Mayor

APPROVED:

LLOYD PETER M. LOPEZ, M.D.
Municipal Mayor

Date: _____