**Philippine and International Biodiversity Laws**

1. [**REPUBLIC ACT 7586**](http://www.travelphilippinesnow.com/?p=1749) – An act providing for the establishment and management of national integrated proteted areas system, defining its scope and coverage and for the purposes.

* This Act shall be known and referred to as the “National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992.”

For purposes of *Republic Act 7586*, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

“*National Integrated Protected Areas Systems (NIPAS)*” is the classification and administration of all designated protected areas to maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems, to preserve genetic diversity, to ensure sustainable use of resources found therein, and to maintain their natural conditions to the greatest extent possible;

“*Protected Area*” refers to identified portions of land and water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation;

“*Buffer zones*” are identified areas outside the boundaries of and immediately adjacent to designated protected areas pursuant to Section 8 that need special development control in order to avoid or minimize harm to the protected area;

“*Indigenous cultural community*” refers to a group of people sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural traits, and who have, since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized a territory;

“*National park*” refers to a forest reservation essentially of natural wilderness character which has been withdrawn from settlement, occupancy or any form of exploitation except in conformity with approved management plan and set aside as such exclusively to conserve the area or preserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects, wild animals and plants therein and to provide enjoyment of these features in such areas:

“*Natural monument*” is a relatively small area focused on protection of small features to protect or preserve nationally significant natural features on account of their special interest or unique characteristics;

“*Natural biotic area*” is an area set aside to allow the way of life of societies living in harmony with the environment to adapt to modern technology at their pace;

“*Natural park*” is a relatively large area not materially altered by human activity where extractive resource uses are not allowed and maintained to protect outstanding and scenic areas of national or international significance for scientific, educational and recreational use;

“*Protected landscapes/seascapes*” are areas of national significance which are characterized by the harmonious interaction of man and land while providing opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and tourism within the normal lifestyle and economic activity of these areas;

“*Resource reserve*” is an extensive and relatively isolated and uninhabited area normally with difficult access designated as such to protect natural resources of the area for future use and prevent or contain development activities that could affect the resource pending the establishment of objectives which are based upon appropriate knowledge and planning;

“*Strict nature reserve*” is an area possessing some outstanding ecosystem, features and/or species of flora and fauna of national scientific importance maintained to protect nature and maintain processes in an undisturbed state in order to have ecologically representative examples of the natural environment available for scientific study, environmental monitoring, education, and for the maintenance of genetic resources in a dynamic and evolutionary state;

“*Tenured migrant communities*” are communities within protected areas which actually and continuously occupied such area for five (5) years before the designation of the same as protected areas in accordance with this Act and are solely dependent therein for subsistence; and

“*Wildlife sanctuary*” comprises an area which assures the natural conditions necessary to protect nationally significant species, groups of species, biotic communities or physical features of the environment where these may require specific human manipulation for the [perpetuation](http://www.travelphilippinesnow.com/?p=1749).

2. [**REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9147**](http://www.travelphilippinesnow.com/?p=1743) (July 30, 2001) – An Act Providing For The Conservation And Protection Of Wildlife Resources And Their Habitats, Appropriating Funds Therefore And For Other Purposes

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Title. ­ This act shall be known as the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. ­ It shall be the policy of the State to conserve the country’s wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainability. In the pursuit of this policy, this Act shall have the following objectives:

(a) to conserve and protect wildlife species and their habitats to promote ecological balance and enhance biological diversity;

(b) to regulate the collection and trade of wildlife;

(c) to pursue, with due regard to the national interest, the Philippine commitment to international conventions, protection of wildlife and their habitats; and

(d) to initiate or support scientific studies on the conservation of biological diversity.

3. [**REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8371**](http://www.travelphilippinesnow.com/?p=1753)(July 28, 1997)- An Act to recognize, protect and promote the rights of indigenous cultural communities/ indigenous peoples, creating a national commission on indigenous peoples, establishing implementing mechanisms, appropriating funds therefor, and for other purposes.

4. [**Republic Act 9072**](http://www.travelphilippinesnow.com/?p=1830)(National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act) – An act to manage and protect caves and cave resources and for other purposes.

5. The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 also known as the [**Republic Act 8550**](http://www.travelphilippinesnow.com/?p=1782) provided a new framework for management and development of Philippine fisheries from “open access” and maximum utilization (1975 Presidential Decree 704) to access limitation and conservation for sustainable development. Its principles has been for the attainment of its goal for Food Security, Poverty Alleviation, Sustained Management, Conservation and Protection and Improvement of its Productivity.