

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 533, June 06, 2006]

**ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT AS A
NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S COASTAL AND MARINE
ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES AND ESTABLISHING
SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

WHEREAS, the Philippines is an archipelagic state of more than 7,100 islands with a vast coastline and rich coastal and marine areas noted to be among the most important and biologically diverse in the world;

WHEREAS, coastal and marine areas are vital sources of food, minerals and raw materials, as well as natural setting for sports, recreation, and other social and cultural activities;

WHEREAS, marine-related economic activities, including fisheries, marine transportation, tourism, coastal mining, and offshore oil and gas development make significant contributions to the country's GDP as well as provide livelihood and employment opportunities to coastal communities;

WHEREAS, current trends in coastal migration and increasing human activities on land, coasts and seas exert pressure on the sustaining capacity of marine areas as well as amplify the risks of environmental degradation, destruction of vital coastal habitats, loss of marine biological diversity, and deterioration of near shore water quality;

WHEREAS, the prevailing single-sector approach to coastal and marine management has set up jurisdictional divides among sectors and government agencies, exacerbating conflicts, which result in inefficient and unsustainable use of resources;

WHEREAS, the potential benefits of the country's rich marine resources have not been fully realized due to multiple use conflicts, limited funding and insufficient capacity;

WHEREAS, Article II, Sections 15 and 16 of the Constitution provide that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people as well as their right to a healthful and balanced ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, Article XII, Section 2 of the Constitution provides that the State shall protect the nation's marine wealth and exclusive economic zone and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens;

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 10 of the Constitution provides further that the State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development;

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 7 of the Constitution provides that the State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially local communities, to the

preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore and provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research and other services;

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 16 of the Constitution recognizes the right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision making and provides that the State shall, by law, facilitate the establishment of adequate consultation mechanisms;

WHEREAS, due to the complexity of environmental issues and the variety of sectors benefiting from the coastal and marine resources, there is a need to adopt an innovative approach that will address environmental as well as socio-economic issues in a comprehensive and integrated manner in order to promote optimum resource utilization and sustainable coastal and marine development;

WHEREAS, integrated coastal management is a dynamic process of planning and management involving stakeholders, and requiring the analysis of the environmental and socioeconomic implications of development, the ecosystem processes, and the interrelationships among land-based and marine-related activities across jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, integrated coastal management is recognized as an effective approach to sustainable coastal and marine development with demonstrated benefits in enhancing economic growth, ecosystem protection, promotion of social equity, and the quality of life of the people;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is a party to many international agreements on seas and oceans, principally, the Convention on the Law of the Sea, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, as well as non-binding instruments such as the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, which promote integrated and sustainable coastal management;

WHEREAS, one of the UN Millennium Development Goals is to ensure environmental sustainability by integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reversing the loss of environmental resources;

WHEREAS, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development promotes integrated, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral coastal and ocean management at the national level;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is committed to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia, which requires concerted efforts towards integrated coastal and ocean management;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Policy. ICM and related approaches, such as coastal resource management or coastal zone management, shall be the national management policy framework to promote the sustainable development of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources in order to achieve food security, sustainable livelihood, poverty alleviation and reduction of vulnerability to natural hazards, while preserving ecological integrity.

SEC. 2. Scope and Coverage. ICM shall be implemented in all coastal and marine areas, addressing the inter-linkages among associated watersheds, estuaries and wetlands, and coastal seas, by all relevant national and local agencies.

SEC. 3. Development of a National ICM Programme. A National ICM Programme shall be developed by the DENR, in consultation with other concerned agencies, sectors, and stakeholders, within one year from the effectivity of this Order to provide direction, support and guidance to the local government units (LGUs) and stakeholders in the development and implementation of their local ICM programmes. The National ICM Programme shall include principles, strategies, and action plans identified after balancing national development priorities with local concerns, define national ICM targets and develop a national ICM coordinating mechanism.

SEC. 4. Implementation of ICM Programmes. The implementation of ICM programmes shall take into account the following elements:

an interagency, multi-sectoral mechanism to coordinate the efforts of different agencies, sectors and administrative levels;

b. coastal strategies and action plans that provide a long term vision and strategy for sustainable development of the coastal area, and a fixed term programme of actions for addressing priority issues and concerns;

public awareness programmes to increase the level of understanding of, and appreciation for, the coastal and marine resources of the area, and to promote a shared responsibility among stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the ICM programme;

d. mainstreaming ICM programmes into the national and local governments' planning and socio-economic development programmes and allocating adequate financial and human resources for implementation;

e. capacity building programmes to enhance required human resource skills, scientific input to policy and planning processes, and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with adopted rules and regulations;

f. integrated environmental monitoring for the purpose of measuring the status, progress and impacts of management programmes against sustainable development indicators, as may be established, and for use in decision-making, public awareness, and performance evaluation; and

g. investment opportunities and sustainable financing mechanisms for environmental protection and improvement and resource conservation.

ICM programmes shall promote the application of best practices, such as, but not limited to:

a. Coastal and marine use zonation as a management tool;

b. Sustainable fisheries and conservation of living resources;

c. Protection and rehabilitation of coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, estuaries and other habitats, particularly through implementation of marine protected areas, nature reserves and sanctuaries;