

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 47TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE 14TH SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF THE PROVINCE OF AURORA HELD AT THE SP SESSION HALL, PROVINCIAL CAPITOL, BALER AURORA ON AUGUST 25, 2020

PRESENT:

HON. CHRISTIAN M. NOVERAS,	Vice Governor & Presiding Officer
HON. MARIANO TANGSON,	Regular Member, 1 st District
HON. ISIDRO P. GALBAN,	Regular Member, 1 st District
HON. JESUS V. PALMERO,	Regular Member, 1 st District
HON. PHILIP BUTCH M. BAUTISTA,	Regular Member, 1 st District
HON. JENNIFER A. ARAÑA,	Regular Member, 2 nd District
HON. LORDAN B. ROXAS,	Regular Member, 2 nd District
HON. NICASIO M. SALAMERA,	Regular Member, 2 nd District
HON. RAFAEL M. DE MAYO,	Ex-Officio Member, LnB Pres.
HON. JOVENE MIKE B. ALPUERTO,	Ex-Officio Member, SKF Pres.
HON. ONASIS RONQUILLO,	Ex-Officio Member, PCL Pres.
HON. MARY JANE B. DONATO,	Ex-Officio Member, IPM Rep.

ABSENT:

HON. EUGENE B. CALUGTONG	Regular Member, 2 nd District (on O.B.)
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ORDINANCE NO. 331

AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING THE GUIDELINES IN THE SELECTION AND DECLARATION OF THE RESPECTIVE FLAGSHIP SPECIES OF THE EIGHT MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA

Authored by: Hon. Mariano C. Tangson

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) provides the local government units with the power, authority, responsibility and resources to be able to enjoy and attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and be effective partners in the attainment of national goals;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the same code provides that, "*Every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare. Within their respective territorial jurisdictions, local government units shall xxx among other things xxx enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology xxx*";

WHEREAS, Section 447(1)(vi) of the Local Government Code empowers the Sangguniang Bayan to enact ordinances that, "*Protect the environment and impose appropriate penalties for acts which endanger the environment, smuggling of natural resources products and of endangered species of flora and fauna, slash and burn farming, and such other activities which result in pollution, acceleration xxx of ecological imbalance*;

WHEREAS, there is a necessity to provide for necessary measures which shall ensure the preservation of biological diversity and the protection of rare and endangered species and their habitats;

WHEREAS, Section 35 of the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act (Republic Act 9147) state that the Local Government Units shall initiate conservation measures for endemic species in their areas. For this purpose, they may adopt **flagship species** and other restricted range species endemic or unique in their localities which shall serve as the emblems of conservation for the local government concerned;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of the Honorable Mariano C. Tangson, duly seconded,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN IN SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. TITLE. – This ordinance shall be known and cited as the “**GUIDELINES IN THE SELECTION AND DECLARATION OF THE RESPECTIVE FLAGSHIP SPECIES OF ALL THE MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA ORDINANCE**”.

SECTION 2. COVERAGE. – This Ordinance shall apply in the matter of selection, determination and declaration of flagship species of all Municipal Local Government Units (MLGU's) in the Province of Aurora.

SECTION 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – It is hereby declared the policy of the Province of Aurora to secure the province's wildlife resources and flagship species and their habitats through proper conservation and protection.

SECTION 4. OBJECTIVES. – In order to attain the purpose of this ordinance, the following objectives are hereby set:

1. To select a simple, instantly recognizable flagship species that evokes a positive emotional response among members of the target audience, and evokes feelings of trust, affection, and a sense of pride in the local environment;
2. To conserve, protect and manage endemic species of wild plants and animals and their habitats particularly those that are rare, threatened and facing extinction;
3. To promote awareness on the significance of the flagship species and their habitats as emblems of conservation for the local government concerned;
4. To encourage the public to support and create sense of ownership in the management programs and other related activities implemented for the species; and
5. To prevent species extinction.

SECTION 5. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – The following terms in this Ordinance are defined as:

- a. *Academe* – the academic environment or community of universities and colleges.
- b. *Appearance* – perception of how attractive a species is.

- c. Conservation – means preservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife, and/or maintenance, restoration and enhancement of their habitat.
- d. Critically Endangered species – refers to a species or subspecies that is facing extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future.
- e. Elderly Community – persons who have lived for a relatively long time or attained a specific age.
- f. Endangered species – refers to a species or subspecies that is not critically endangered but whose survival in the wild is likely if the casual factors continue operating.
- g. Endemic species – means species or subspecies which is naturally occurring and found only within specific areas in the country.
- h. Flagship Species – is a species selected to act as an ambassador, icon, or symbol for a defined habitat, issue, campaign or environmental cause.
- i. *Habitat* – is the natural home or environment of a plant, animal, or other organism that live there with food, water, shelter and space to survive.
- j. *Keystone Species* – are species whose impact on its community or ecosystem are larger and greater than would be expected from its relative abundance or total biomass in the environment.
- k. *LGU* – refers to municipality level of Local Government Units.
- l. *Local historian* – a writer of local histories; an expert in or student of local history.
- m. *Species Action Plan* – a document that is made through multi-stakeholders workshop which provides detailed conservation actions and management plans needed by the species for a 5-year period.
- n. *Threatened Species* – a general term to denote species or subspecies considered as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or other accepted categories of wildlife whose population is at risk of extinction.
- o. *Wildlife* – means wild forms and varieties of flora and fauna, in all developmental stages, including those which are in captivity or are being bred or propagated.

SECTION 6. GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURE IN THE SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF FLAGSHIP SPECIES. – The following shall serve as a guide for LGU's in the selection, adaption and management of flagship species that would ensure flagship functionally in order to attain conservation goals in a long term basis and apply to all endemic terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species – both flora and fauna found in the Province of Aurora.

6.1. Procedure in the Selection of Flagship Species. – The Provincial Government of Aurora, in coordination with the DENR, shall provide the LGU a list of endemic species and their profile based on the best scientific information available, and from which municipal LGU can select its flagship species based on the criteria set herein. It may also adopt to conduct biodiversity assessment, assessment or interview with the community in order to identify and select wildlife species found within its political jurisdiction.

6.1.1. Species Selection and Criteria. –

- a. **Uses.** LGU shall identify needed uses of flagship. The typology of conservation actions outlined in the criteria below provides a starting point for identifying potential uses. Ideally, a flagship should facilitate multiple conservation actions interlinked in practice.

- b. **Matching Audiences to Species.** As existing attitudes can catalyze actions and enable conservation goals, it shall be necessary for LGU to gather data, through focus group discussion or any other means, on the attitudes of identified local or issue-related audiences towards potential flagship species in order to give guidance on what species local communities would likely support.
- c. **Criteria.** Local Government Unit (LGU's) may select from the criteria indicated in the following table depending on its purpose or intended use of flagship species:

Criteria	Conservation Awareness	Fund raising	Promoting Ecotourism	Community-based Conservation	Promotion of Funded research	Protection of Species/Habitat	Influencing Policy
Geographic location and range							
Conservation status and population size							
Umbrella Effect							
presents other species							
Recognizable & easily observed							
Physical appearance & special characteristic							
Cultural Significant & positive associations							
Traditional Knowledge and common names							
Scientific value							
Existing usage							

6.2. Requisite Characteristics of a flagship species. – The selection must ensure that flagship species must have the following characteristics:

- Must be local or endemic to symbolize the uniqueness of the conservation target area to foster a sense of local pride,
- Must be rare species which creates a sense of pride in the local environment. Pride of place is a powerful emotion that can motivate change in their behavior and empower them to take environment action,
- Must be charismatic or appealing to the target audience,
- Must be a representative of the conservation target area by living in its habitat or ecosystem, and
- Must have no negative perceptions among local people, such as being crop pest, being dangerous, or have existing cultural connotations that detract from or compete with campaign's conservation messages.

6.3. Adoption and Declaration of Flagship Species by the LGU. – After LGU has selected its species based on the procedures and selection criteria provided under Section 6 hereof, it shall adopt and declare the selected flagship species through municipal ordinance and the said ordinance must indicate specific provision on the allocation of fund for the conservation and management of the selected flagship species.

6.4. Management concept. – Each Municipal LGU shall develop a detailed Species Action Plan for the conservation of the approved flagship species and its habitat. Cost of implementing the plan shall be included in the work and Financial Plan of each LGU. In the process of program implementation, action plan shall be prepared by each LGU for the protection and conservation of the selected flagship species.

SECTION 7. AD HOC COORDINATING COMMITTEE. – There is hereby created an Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee composed of representatives from ENRO, MENRO, DENR, DEPED, the Chairperson of the SP Committee on Environment and One (1) Civil Society Organization involved in the environment. The committee shall perform the following functions, to wit:

- a. Provide technical assistance to LGU's in the selection of potential flagship species based on best scientific information and in the implementation and formulation of policies in support of this program.
- b. Facilitate the solution of potential duplication/ conflict on the selected flagship species among LGU's and make the necessary recommendation to resolve duplication/conflict.
- c. Review the draft ordinance of LGU's for necessary recommendation prior to the adoption of the Sangguniang Bayan and approval of the Local Chief Executives (LCEs).
- d. Provide assistance to LGU's in the designing of the logo for flagship which shall be undertaken by each LGU concerned.

This committee shall cease to function after all the ordinances of the LGUs declaring their respective flagship species have been approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Aurora.

SECTION 8. ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES. – All municipalities in the province of Aurora are hereby encouraged to enact ordinances specifically declaring their respective flagship species and providing for its protection and conservation including imposing penalties for violations thereof. The Municipal Ordinance must be consistent with the guidelines provided in this Ordinance in order to achieve its purpose.

SECTION 9. CONSERVATION AND ACTION PLAN. – The Municipalities through their respective MENRO and MPDO, in coordination with the DENR-CENRO and Office of the Provincial Planning and Development (OPPD), shall develop conservation and protection plan for the flagship species in consultation with concerned government agencies and other stakeholders for the conservation of the municipal flagship species and their habitats.

SECTION 10. HABITAT OF FLAGSHIP SPECIES. – The Municipalities shall take the necessary measures to protect and conserve the municipal flagship species and its habitats including, but not limited to, initiating and/or supporting steps for the declaration of said habitats as "critical habitats" under the Wildlife Act (RA 9147)

SECTION 11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. – The municipal government shall ensure that public participation is maximized in the process of selection of flagship species that capsulizes the vision, interests, culture and tradition and practices that best describe the image of the municipality. Public hearing shall be conducted to hear suggestion from the general public, local historians, the academe and the elderly community.

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION. – To effectively carry out the implementation and enforcement of this Ordinance, an initial funding of Php 200, 000.00 to defray the expenses necessary or incident to its implementation shall be appropriated by the province from its General Fund.

SECTION 13. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If for any reason or reasons, any portion or provision of this ordinance or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances is declared invalid, all other parts or provisions not affected shall thereby continue to remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All ordinances, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVITY. – This Ordinance shall take effect after 10 days of posting as provided in the Local Government Code.

ENACTED this 25th day of August 2020.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.


MARIA OLIVIA D. MAZA 8/27/2020
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:


CHRISTIAN M. NOVERAS,
Vice Governor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED by His Honor on September 2, 2020


GERARDO A. NOVERAS
Governor