

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10451, April 08, 2013]

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE BIKOL BOTANICAL GARDEN IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. There is hereby established, within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Camarines Sur, a botanical garden to be known as the "Bikol Botanical Garden". It shall be located in a portion of Mt. Isarog Natural Park within the Municipality of Pili and occupy an area of at least twenty-five (25) hectares to be determined and delineated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its faculties shall be built within landscaped spaces in order to create a park-like recreational environment dedicated to botanic research, experimental planting, collection of study specimen, and the teaching and dissemination of botanic knowledge.

SEC. 2. The Bikol Botanical Garden shall have open-air plantings, living plant collections housed in greenhouses either for conservation, teaching or seasonal public display, and herbarium houses for specimens.

To the extent practicable as space and technical requirements may allow, the Bikol Botanical Garden may have an arboretum for trees and shrubs; a bamboo setum, pinetum; medicinal plants setum; flowering and ornamental plants setum; aquatic plants setum; palm setum; fernery and orchidarium.

The facilities shall be built within a five (5)-year period, depending upon the availability of funds provided by the provincial government of Camarines Sur, national government assistance, and donations and grants from local or foreign sources.

Satellite gardens may be established elsewhere in a municipality or city within the Province of Camarines Sur, either in an urban or rural setting or both, depending upon the type of soil, topography or climatic conditions required to cultivate or maintain plants intended or suitable for such satellite gardens, and depending upon such appropriate cooperative arrangements as may be agreed upon with the other local governments within the Province of Camarines Sur.

SEC 3. The buildings for its officials and staff, the library, and facilities for conferences, seminars, workshops and audio-visual presentations shall be built within a three (3)-year period.

SEC. 4. The Bikol Botanical Garden shall endeavor to maintain a system for the classification of plants for various utilitarian purposes; adopt a program for botanical expeditions to augment its collections; undertake studies and experiments on the commercial cultivation of otherwise wild species of certain plants, arrange for exchanges with other botanical gardens or collectors of plant samples or specimens