



The Philippines' South China Sea Claims

State Formation and Nation-building

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Somewhere in the vast South China Sea

COUNTRIES WITH CLAIMS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA



Key Elements

1. Territorial
2. Maritime
3. Conflict management and resolution

No. 1832

**ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, BOLIVIA,
BRAZIL, etc.**

**Treaty of Peace with Japan (with two declarations). Signed
at San Francisco, on 8 September 1951**

Official texts: English, French, Spanish and Japanese.

Registered by the United States of America on 21 August 1952.

(f) Japan renounces all right, title and claim to the Spratly Islands and to the Paracel Islands.

VIE

CHINA'S

PHILIPPINES CLAIM



PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1596 June 11, 1978

DECLARING CERTAIN AREA PART OF THE PHILIPPINE TERRITORY AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, by reason of their proximity the cluster of islands and islets in the South China Sea situated within the following:

KALAYAAN ISLAND GROUP

From a point [on the Philippine Treaty Limits] at latitude 7°40' North and longitude 116°00' East of Greenwich, thence due West along the parallel of 7°40' N to its intersection with the meridian of longitude 112°10' E, thence due north along the meridian of 112°10' E to its intersection with the parallel of 9°00' N, thence northeastward to the intersection of parallel of 12°00' N with the meridian of longitude 114°30' E, thence, due East along the parallel of 12°00' N to its intersection with the meridian of 118°00' E, thence, due South along the meridian of longitude 118°00' E to its intersection with the parallel of 10°00' N, thence Southwestwards to the point of beginning at 7°40' N, latitude and 116°00' E longitude.

are vital to the security and economic survival of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, much of the above area is part of the continental margin of the Philippine archipelago;

WHEREAS, these areas do not legally belong to any state or nation but, by reason of history, indispensable need, and effective occupation and control established in accordance with the international law, such areas must now deemed to belong and subject to the sovereignty of the Philippines;

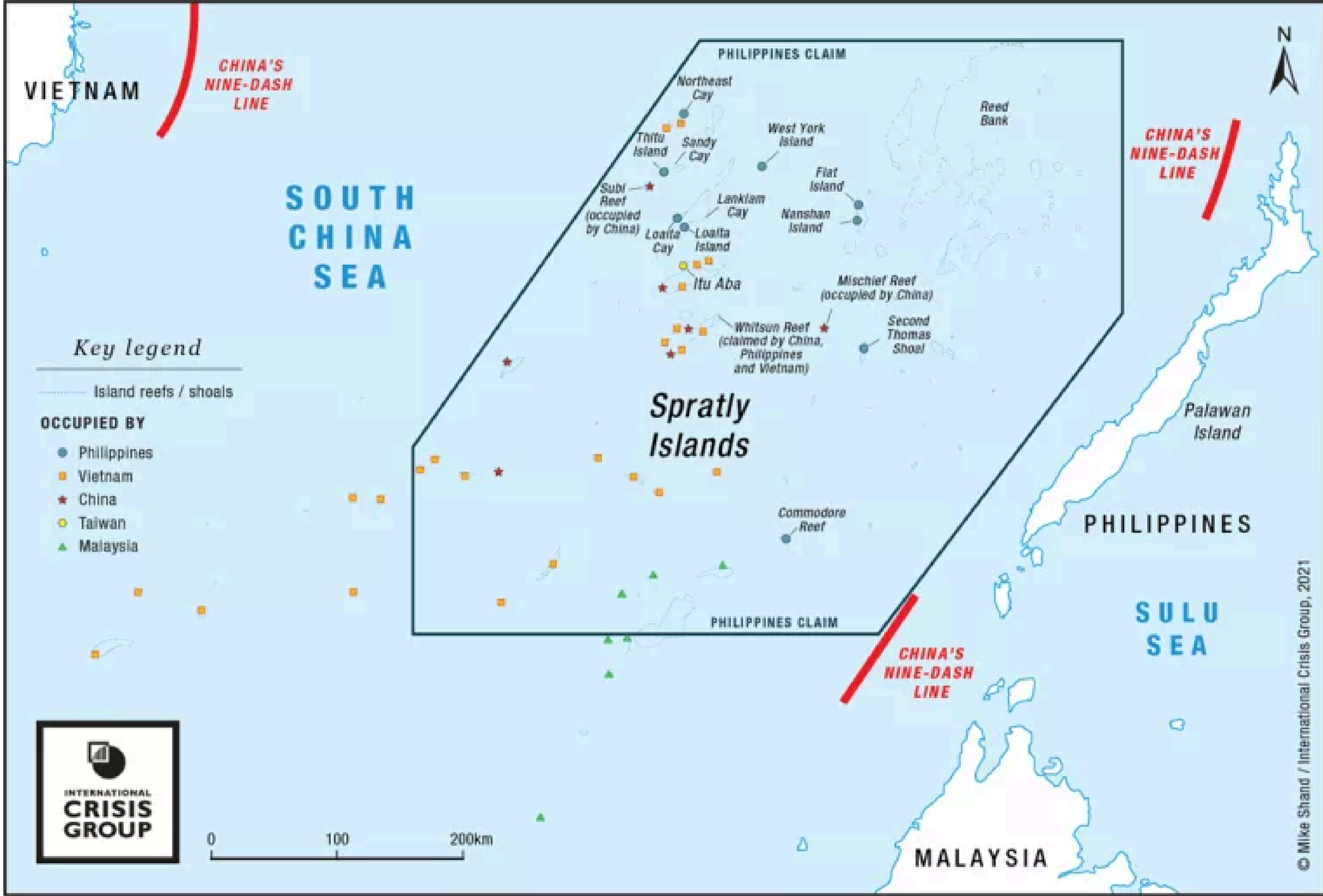
WHEREAS, while other states have laid claims to some of these areas, their claims have lapsed by abandonment and can not prevail over that of the Philippines on legal, historical, and equitable grounds.

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-
- ★
-
- ▲

GROUP

0 100 200km

MALAYSIA



CHINA'S NINE-DASH LINE

CHINA'S NINE-DASH LINE

CHINA'S NINE-DASH LINE

PHILIPPINES CLAIM

PHILIPPINES CLAIM

Key legend

----- Island reefs / shoals

OCCUPIED BY

- Philippines
- Vietnam
- ★ China
- Taiwan
- ▲ Malaysia

0 100 200km



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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila

Fourteenth Congress

Second Regular Session

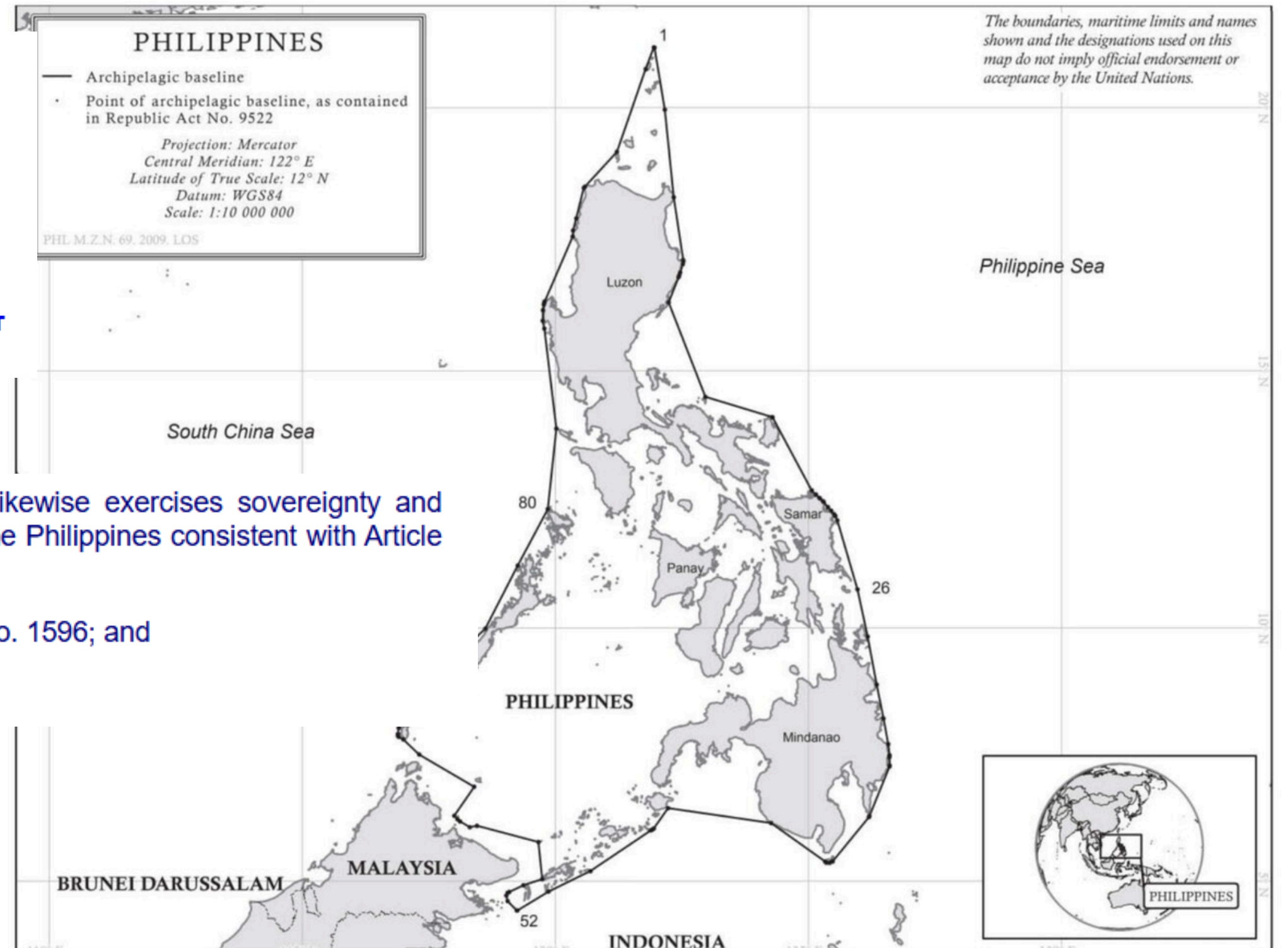
Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of July, two thousand eight.

REPUBLIC ACT No. 9522 **March 10, 2009**

AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3046, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5446, TO DEFINE THE ARCHIPELAGIC BASELINE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Section 2. The baseline in the following areas over which the Philippines likewise exercises sovereignty and jurisdiction shall be determined as "Regime of Islands" under the Republic of the Philippines consistent with Article 121 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

- a) The Kalayaan Island Group as constituted under Presidential Decree No. 1596; and
- b) Bajo de Masinloc, also known as Scarborough Shoal.





FEATURES IN THE KALAYAAN ISLAND GROUP

0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Kilometers

Scale: 1:700,000
Datum: WGS 1984

Legend

- Feature Group
- Feature
- National Name
- International Name
- Territory Group Name
- Republic Act No. 9511 Amphibolegic Boundaries
- Presidential Decree No. 1596 Kalayaan Island Group





Sangleyes, o Chinos.



Christiana. Suo principal. Perca de conchanchuygitan. Cargado empaga.



Cafrez. Canafin. Labbar.



Molises. Marabica. Japon.



Español con payullo. Negro atizado criado de tierra. Indio pisando gallos.



Armeria o Perja chupando tabaco. Mogol. Malabar. Frada con lamben e India con India para ir a la India. India con chomaytaga e tres gajabos para el Indio. Bija con balavao.



MALACAÑANG
Manila

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 1599

ESTABLISHING AN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, an exclusive economic zone extending to a distance of two hundred nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea is measured is vital to the economic survival and development of the Republic of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, such a zone is now a recognized principle of international law;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby decree and order:

Section 1. There is hereby established a zone to be known as the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines. The exclusive economic zone shall extend to a distance of two hundred nautical miles beyond and from the baselines from which the territorial sea is measured: Provided, That, where the outer limits of the zone as thus determined overlap the exclusive economic zone of an adjacent or neighboring state, the common boundaries shall be determined by agreement with the state concerned or in accordance with pertinent generally recognized principles of international law on delimitation.

1987 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

ARTICLE XII NATIONAL ECONOMY AND PATRIMONY

The State shall protect the nations marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens.

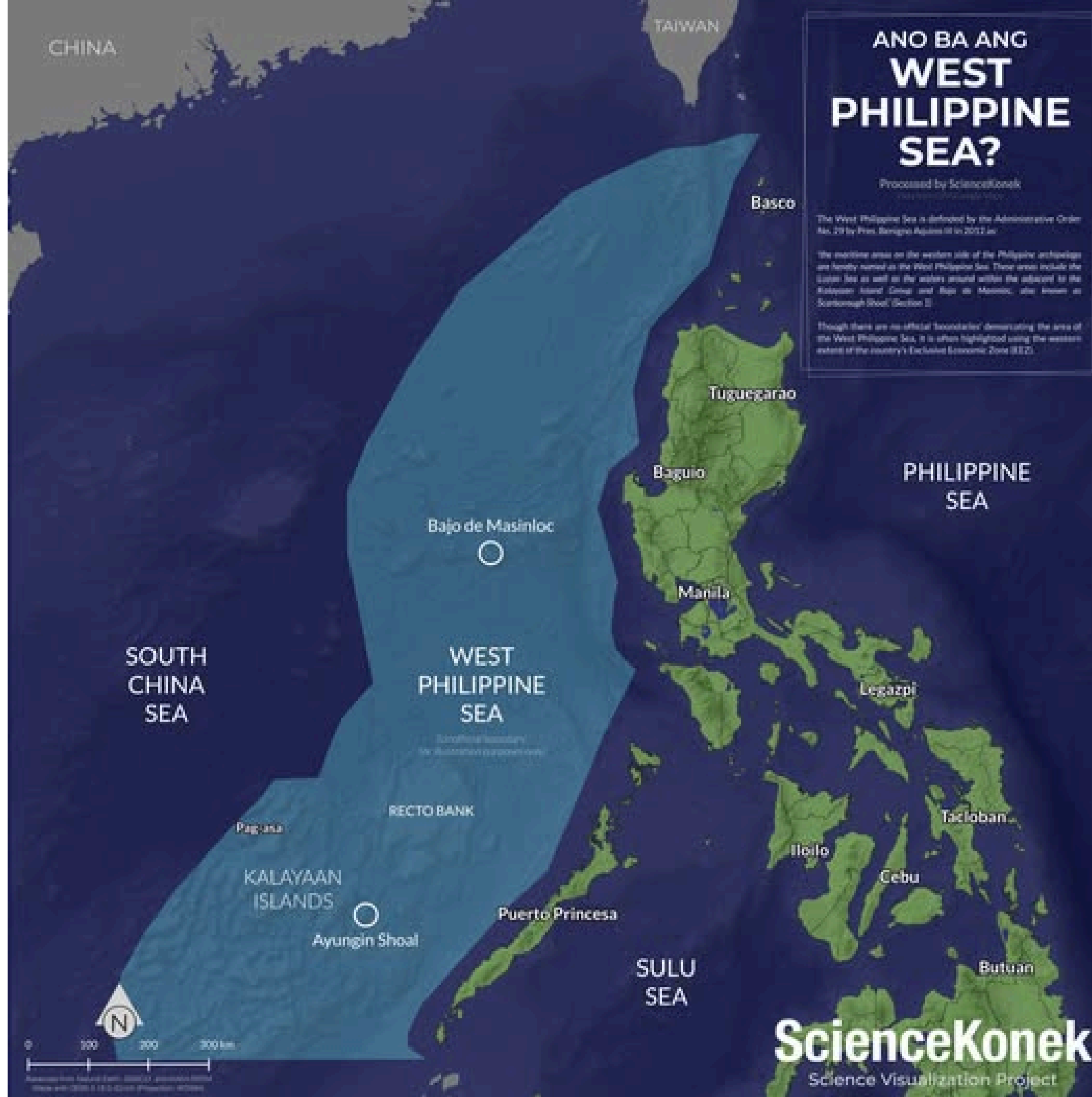
The use of these zones indicates alignment with the nomenclature of the Law of the Sea Convention.

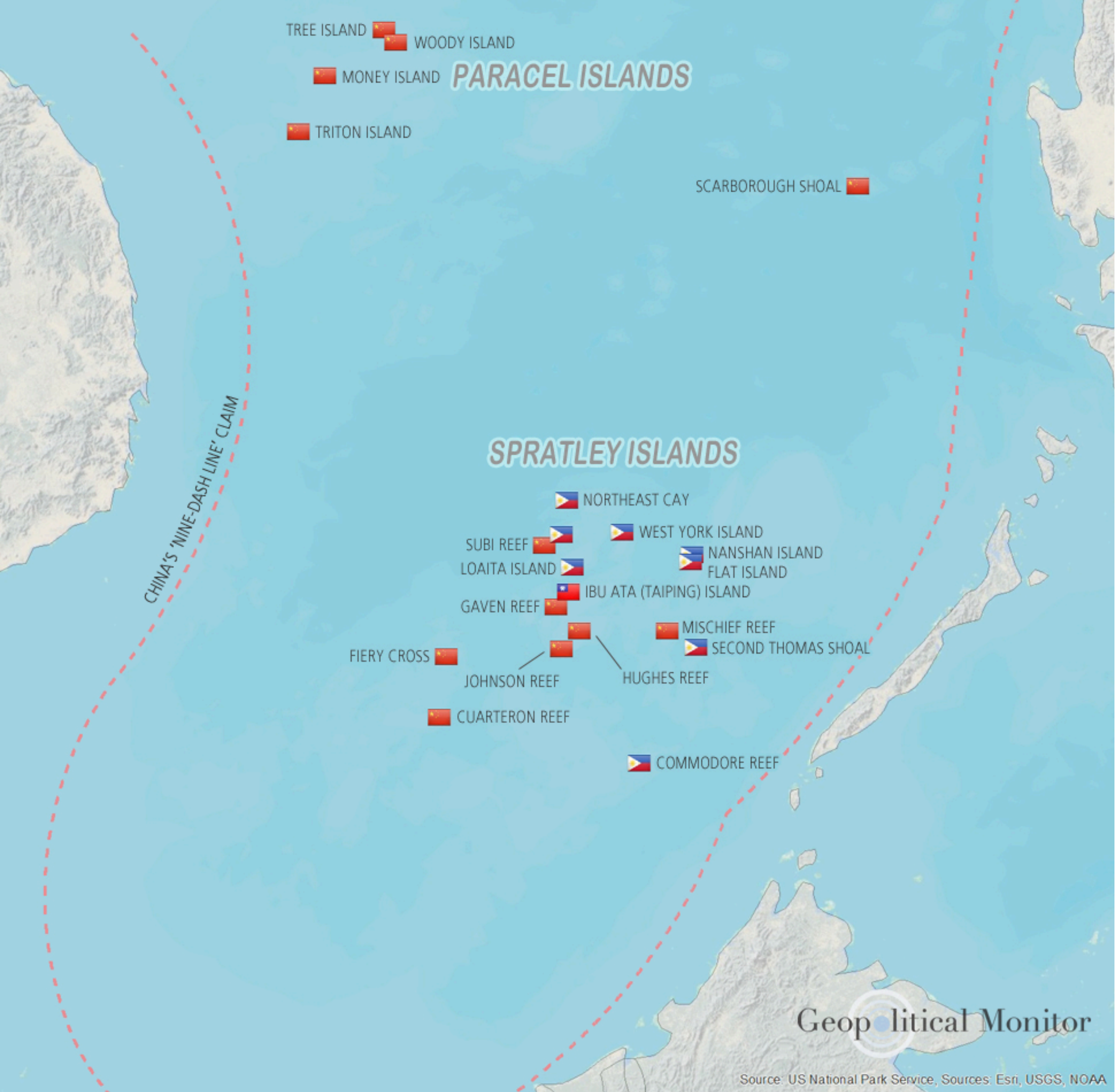
The Philippines must ensure that its marine and coastal resources are properly managed and protected against any threats of pollution from marine and land-based resources.

Maritime security - a state wherein the country's marine assets, maritime practices, territorial integrity and coastal peace and order are protected, conserved and enhanced.

The Philippine government slowly moved to separate the territorial issue from the maritime aspect, with the latter being resolved on the basis of the Law of the Sea Convention

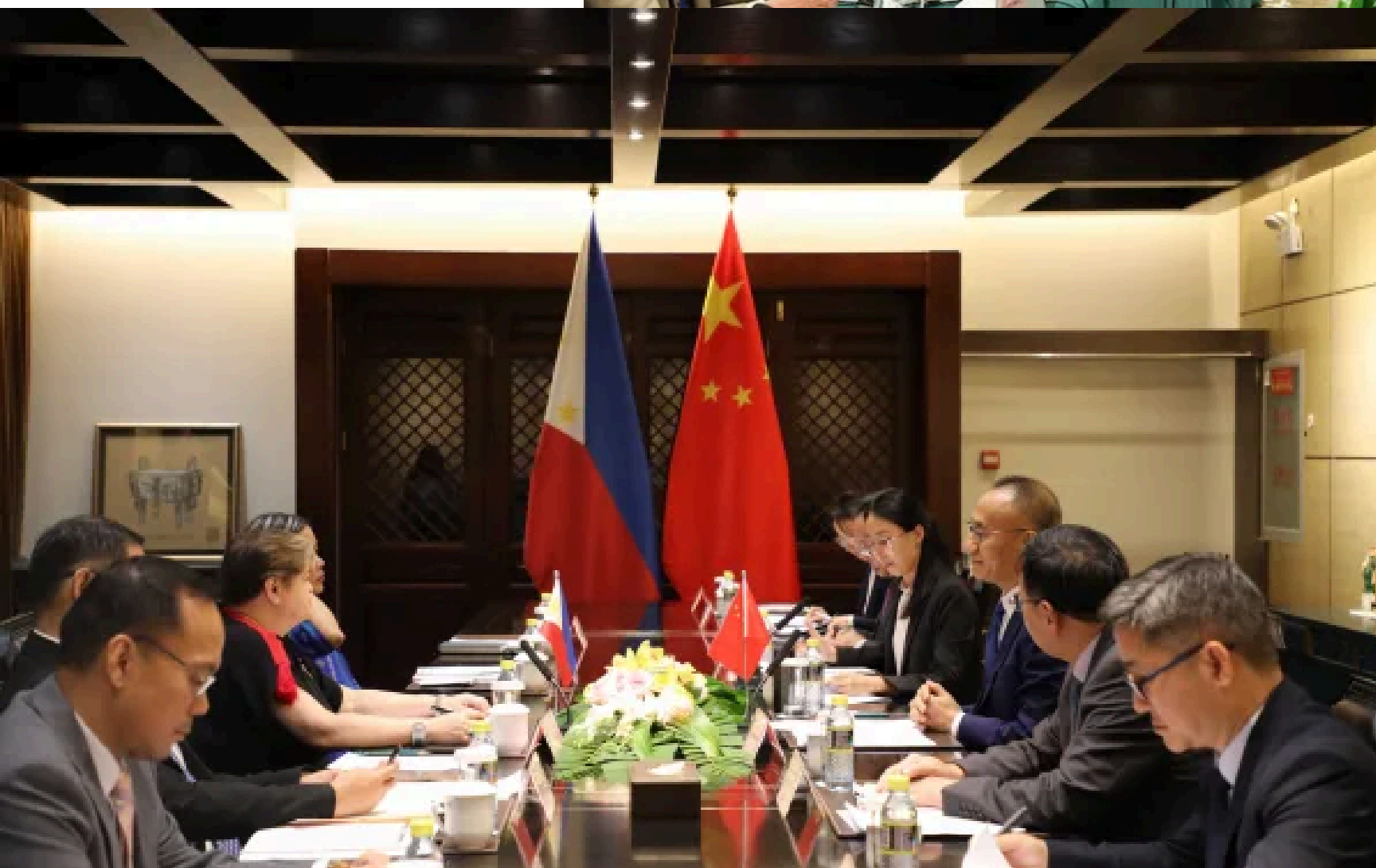
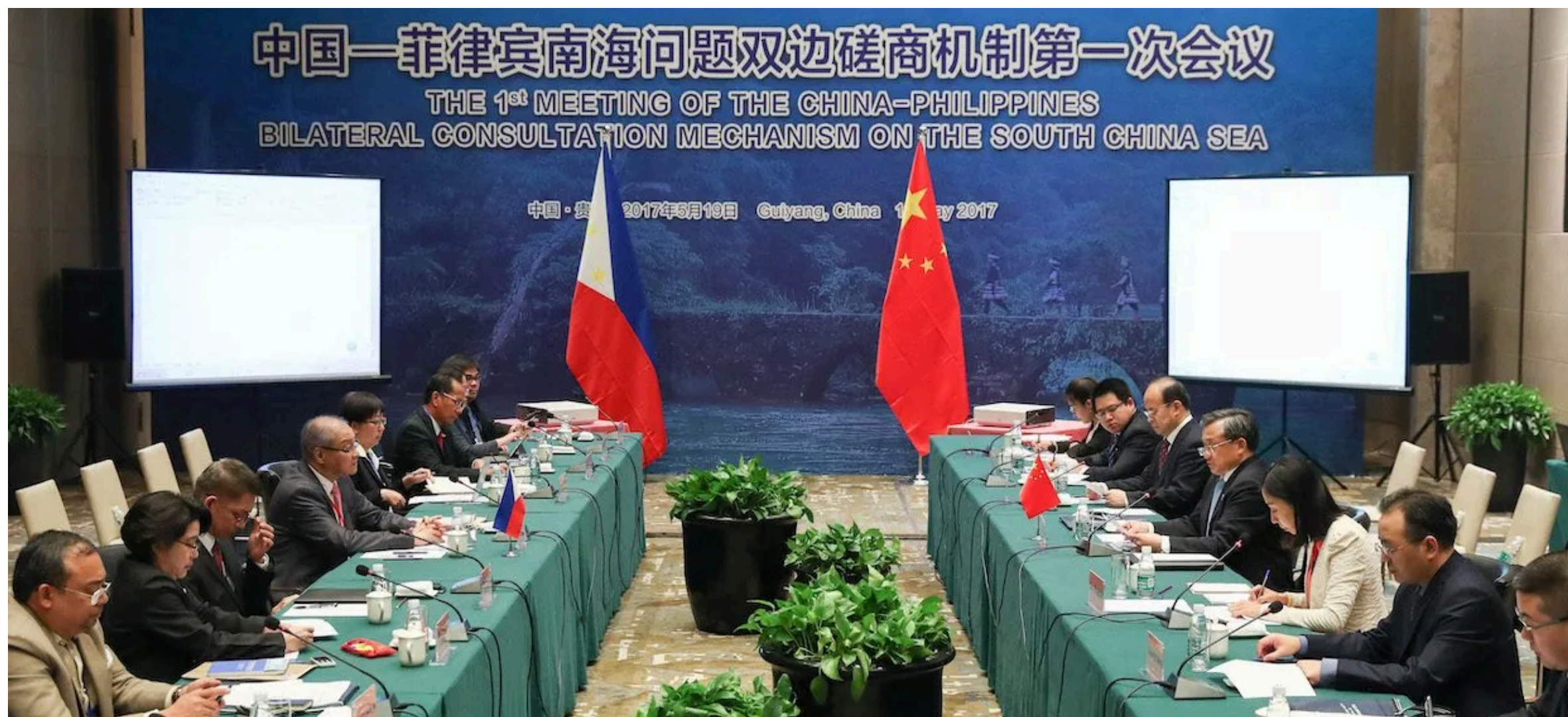


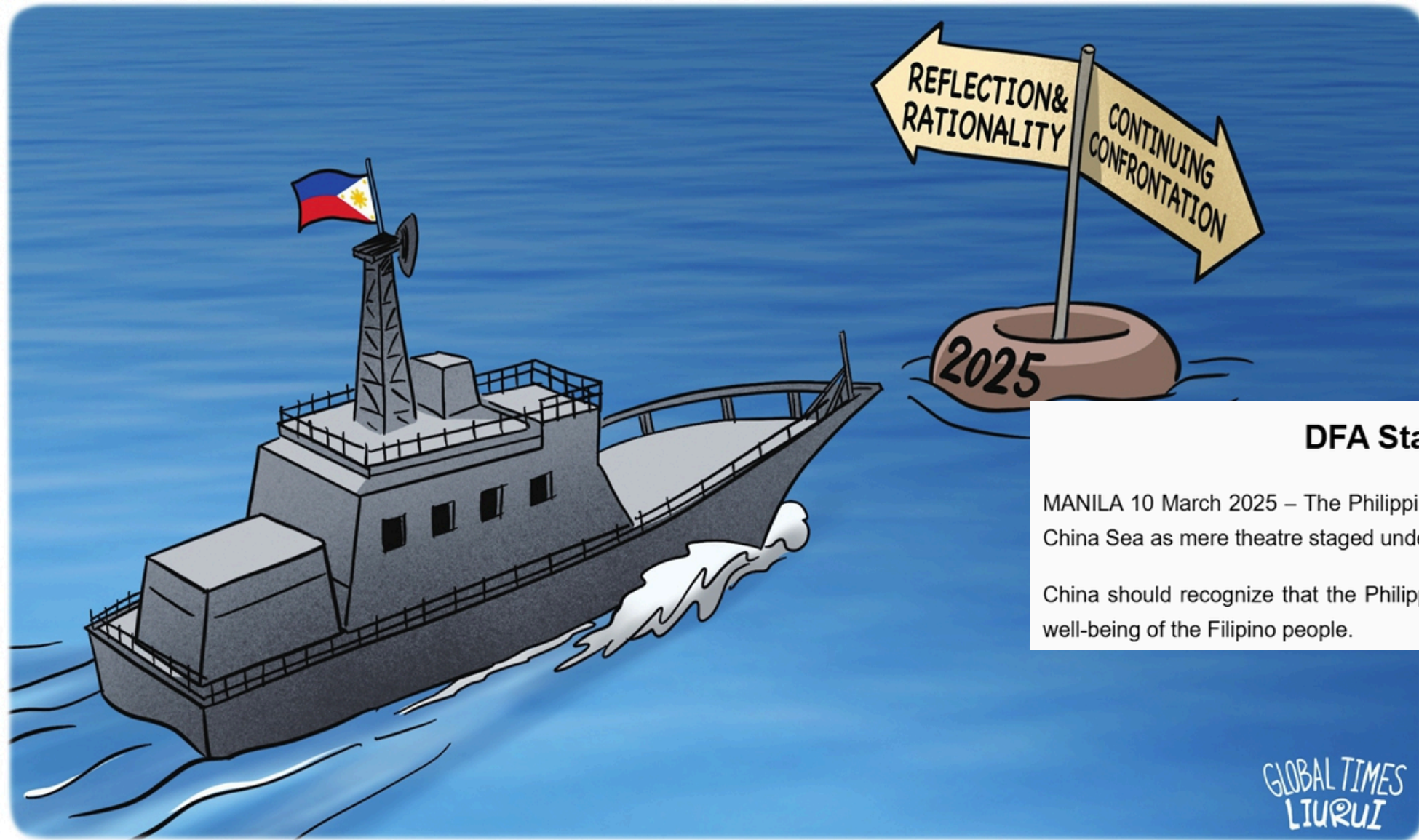




The Philippines questioned the validity of the Nine-dash line and clarified the status, and therefore the entitlements, of the features in the South China Sea







DFA Statement on the Recent Remarks of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

MANILA 10 March 2025 – The Philippines disagrees with the recent remarks of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi characterizing the developments and incidents in the South China Sea as mere theatre staged under the direction of other countries.

China should recognize that the Philippines is an independent and sovereign state whose actions and decisions are driven entirely by national interest and the interests and well-being of the Filipino people.

GLOBAL TIMES
LIURUI



Wang Yi on the South-China-Sea performance staged by the Philippines: Those acting as others' chess pieces are bound to be discarded

Updated: MARCH 07, 2025 12:42

[CN](#) [FR](#) [ES](#) [PYC](#)

GLOBAL TIMES
LIURUI



The Philippines' approach to the South China Sea dispute intricately weaves together historical claims, national identity, and a strategic pivot towards international law and enhanced diplomacy, revealing the nation's ongoing state formation and nation-building.



The South China Sea:
An Arena for Regionalism

Somewhere in the vast South China Sea