ADDRESSING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINES

Second-largest archipelago in the world comprising 7,641 islands

Current population is 100 million, but projected to reach 125 million by 2030; most people, particularly the poor, depend on biodiversity

240 Protected Areas
228 Key Biodiversity Areas

One of only 17 mega-diverse countries for harboring wildlife species found nowhere else in the world

More than 52,177 described species, half of which are endemic

342 species of reptiles, 68% are endemic

4th most important country in bird endemism with 695 species (195 endemic and 126 restricted range)

114 species of amphibians

5th in the world in terms of total plant species, half of which are endemic

Home to 5 of 7 known marine turtle species in the world
- green, hawksbill, olive ridley, loggerhead, and leatherback turtles
The Philippines is a consumer, source, and transit point for IWT, threatening endemic species populations, economic development, and biodiversity. The country has been a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity since 1992.

The value of IWT in the Philippines is estimated at ₱50 billion a year (roughly equivalent to $1 billion), which includes the market value of wildlife and its resources, their ecological role and value, damage to habitats incurred during poaching, and loss in potential ecotourism revenues.

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

The value of Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) is estimated at $10 billion–$23 billion per year, making wildlife crime the fourth most lucrative illegal business after narcotics, human trafficking, and arms.

MAJOR CONFISCATIONS AND SEIZURES

- 5 tons of elephant ivory tusks (1996–2009)
- 95 kg of pangolin scales and 36 kg of pangolin meat equivalent to approximately 200 individual pangolins (2012)
- 2,870 pangolins (2013)
- 354 marine turtles (2014)
- 4,300 freshwater turtles, 4,000 of which were Philippine forest turtles (2015)
- 58 pangolins (2017)
- 70 hawksbill turtles (2017)
- 58 Goffins cockatoos (2017)
- nearly 1,000 endemic pitcher plants and lady slipper orchids (2017)
- 106 sulfur-crested cockatoos (2018)
- 462 Indonesian endemic parrots over at least 4 seizures (2013–2017)

Note: kg = kilogram, ₱ = Philippine peso, $ = United States dollar.
Source: Confiscation records from the Department of Natural Resources–Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR–BMB) and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) of the Philippines.
Recognizing the threats of the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) to the country’s biodiversity and economy, the Philippine government passed legislation, created inter-agency groups to combat the trade in illegal wildlife and wildlife parts, and is building capacity across the law enforcement chain.

The 10-year national Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan (WildLEAP) 2018-2028, which is aligned with the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, serves as the national road map to address wildlife crimes and a guide to prioritizing enforcement activities, allocating funds and resources, and evaluating impacts of enforcement.

With the collaboration of key law enforcement agencies, national, regional, provincial and local government bodies, and civil society organizations, WildLEAP will focus on stronger policies, networking and coordination, building capacity, communication, education and public awareness, improving governance and curbing corruption.

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**GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM**

**Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines**

Addressing wildlife crime in the Philippines through legal and institutional reforms, building capacity throughout the full enforcement chain, and reducing demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife parts.

**OVERVIEW**

**Financing**
- Global Environment Facility (GEF): US$1.8 million
- Government of the Philippines (DENR): US$575,757

**Executing Agency**
Asian Development Bank

**Implementing Agency**
Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB)

**INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS**

**PROJECT SITES:** ★ Butuan ★ Metro Cebu ★ Metro Manila
## PROJECT COMPONENTS

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<td>Reforming and mainstreaming policy, legal and regulatory instruments</td>
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<td>Assessing and addressing capacity and resource gaps across the entire law enforcement chain</td>
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<td>Training and roll-out: Port monitoring and tracking systems, CITES e-permitting system (E-Cites), intelligence gathering and case building</td>
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<td>Economic valuation studies and research on consumer buying behaviour. Behaviour change communication strategy and large-scale public awareness campaign engaging key opinion leaders, influencers, and youth</td>
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**References:**
- The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) UNDP. 2017. Compilation of Reports 2014–2017 Quezon City
- E.Y. Sy. 2018. Trading Faces: *Utilisation of Facebook to Trade Live Reptiles in the Philippines* TRAFFIC, Selangor, Malaysia
ILLEGALLY TRADED SPECIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Conservation status
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Appendices I and II (CITES)

Critically endangered
Facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future

Endangered
Survival in the wild unlikely if the causal factors continue

Vulnerable
Under threat from adverse factors throughout its range. Likely to be endangered in the future

Other threatened species
Under threat from adverse factors such as overcollection throughout its range. Likely to move to vulnerable in near future

Endemic
naturally occurring and found only in the country or within a specific area in the country

Indigenous
natural population is established in, but not confined to, the country; natural population is also found in other countries

Migratory
seasonal visitor to the country

Not Listed

Family

Endemic
naturally occurring and found only in the country or within a specific area in the country

Indigenous
natural population is established in, but not confined to, the country; natural population is also found in other countries

Migratory
seasonal visitor to the country

Not Listed
Most traded species

**Philippine forest turtle ★ (Siebenrockiella leytensis)**
- Palawan
- Semi-aquatic turtle
- Very high demand and value
- Poached to supply the national and international black markets for pets and food

**Hawksbill turtle ★ (Eretmochelys imbricata)**
- The Philippines, Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans and worldwide
- Shells are primary source of “tortoiseshell” used for ornaments and jewelry

**Southeast Asian box turtle ★ (Cuora amboinensis)**
- Throughout the Philippines and SEAsia
- Most commonly traded native turtle species and is particularly threatened by illegal and unsustainable collecting. Novice and impulse buyers are the main consumers

**Palawan pangolin ★ (Manis culionensis)**
- Palawan faunal region
- Critically Endangered through the issuance of PCSD Resolution No. 15-521. No trade or hunting of the species is allowed, not even by indigenous groups. Listed in CITES appendix I
- In high demand for meat as a luxury food and scales for traditional medicine, particularly in Metro Manila.
- Wild populations believed to have declined more than 50% over the last 21 years

**Blue-naped parrot ★ (Tanygnathus lucionensis)**
- Near endemic
- Can be found in many islands in the Philippines but numerous in some areas of Palawan and Tawi-tawi. It can also be found in the Talaud Islands, Indonesia, and islands off north-east Borneo belonging to Malaysia

**Palawan hill mynah ★ (Gracula religiosa palawanensis)**
- Palawan Hill Mynah “Philippine Talking Mynah” or Palawan Mynah
- Palawan: Balabac, Busuanga, Culion, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi
- Poached from forests for local pet trade

**Asian leaf turtle ★ (Cyclemys dentata)**
- Balabac, Palawan, Siasi, Tawi-Tawi
- Illegally collected in Palawan and transported and traded in Metro Manila

**Tokay Gecko ★ (Gekko gecko)**
- Throughout the Philippines, SEAsia, and South Asia
- Suffered from frenzy of over collection because of rumor that they cure HIV/AIDS and could be sold for thousands of pesos
Also Traded and/or Threatened

**Philippine slow loris** ★  
*(Nycticebus menagensis)*  
- Borneo and Philippines (Sulu Archipelago)  
- Trading localized to Mindanao, and Malaysia, but sold in streets

**Philippine cockatoo** ★  
*(Cacatua haematopygia)*  
- Palawan: Rasa Island (Narra), Dumaran Island (Dumaran), Pandanan and Bugsuk Islands (Balabac)  
- High demand and value. Hunters and trappers raid all unprotected cockatoo nests  
- Rapid population decline due to habitat loss and the caged bird trade

**Giant golden-crowned flying fox** ★  
*(Acerodon jubatus)*  
- Philippines except Palawan faunal region, Batanes and Babuyan groups  
- Facing possible extinction because of poaching and forest destruction

**Mindanao water monitor** ★  
*(Varanus cumingi)*, **Luzon or marbled water monitor** ★  
*(Varanus marmoratus)*  
- Mindanao, Basilan, Samar, Leyte, Bohol, and Jolo  
- Collected from wild to supply demand for traditional medicine, food, skins, ornaments, and pets  
- The 10 other species of monitor lizards in the Philippines are also threatened by trade

**Visayan Tarictic hornbill** ★  
*(Penelopides panini)*  
- Panay, including the offshore islands of Sicogon and Pan de Azucar, Guimaras, Negros, Masbate and Ticao  
- Sold widespread and online

**Philippine serpent eagle** ★  
*(Spilornis holospilus)*  
- Found on major islands of the Philippines  
- Hunted and poached for the exotic pet trade and trade in eagle parts

**Brahminy kite** ★  
*(Haliastur indus)*  
- Widespread throughout the Philippines  
- Juveniles or very young birds are in demand for the caged bird trade

**Luzon lowland scops owl** ★  
*(Otus megalotis)*  
- Catanduanes, Luzon, and Marinduque  
- Poached by hunters and sold to collectors on the street, black market and online
**Visayan spotted deer** ★ *(Rusa alfredi)*, **Calamian deer** ★ *(Axis calamianensis)* and **Philippine deer** ★ *(Rusa marianna)*
- Throughout the Philippines except the Negros-Panay, Palawan and Sulu Faunal regions Babuyan and Batanes groups
- Hunted for meat
- Philippine deer is vulnerable, others are endangered

**Pitcher plants** *(Nepenthes spp.)*
- Around 53 known species
- Sought after by local and international hobbyists and collectors
- Some species are classified as CR, EN, and VU under DAO 2017-11

**Bantigue/bantigi** ★ *(Pemphis acidula)*
- Poached and traded for bonsai and ornamental plants

**Philippine hanging parrot “Colasisi”** ★ *(Loriculus philippensis)*
- Can be found in various islands in the Philippines. Different subspecies are native to different islands
- Sold in wet markets and streets
- Some subspecies are very rare, and simply not evaluated

**Philippine sailfin dragon** ★ *(Hydrosaurus pustulatus)*
- Luzon, Polillo, Mindoro, Negros, Cebu, Guimaras, Panay, Masbate, Tablas, Romblon, Sibuyan, and Catanduanes
- In high demand for the exotic pet trade

**Rufous hornbill** ★ *(Buceros hydrocorax)*
- Also known as Philippine hornbill
- Has 3 subspecies: *hydrocorax* (Luzon, Marinduque), *semigaleatus* (Biliran, Bohol, Buad, Calicoan, Leyte, Panaon, Samar), *mindanensis* (Balut, Basilan, Bucas, Dinagat, Mindanao, Siargao, Talicud)
- Threatened by habitat loss, hunting and poaching
- Juvenile and nestlings are in demand

**Tarsier** ★ *(Tarsius syrichta)*
- Bohol, Dinagat, Leyte, Mindanao, Samar, Basilan, Maripipi, Biliran
- One of the world’s smallest primates
- Threatened by habitat loss, illegal pet trade and exploitative tourism

**Leopard cat** ★ *(Prionailurus bengalensis)*
- Siberia to Pakistan and Bali. In the Philippines, documented only on Negros and Palawan, and has been reported from Busuanga, Cebu, and Panay
- Dwindling populations limit trading activities. Sought after by zoos
**Orchids** (Orchidaceae)
- More than 1,000 known species; many are endemic
- It is possible that some species may have gone extinct without our knowledge due to indiscriminate harvesting
- Traded throughout the country
- Also threatened with genetic pollution through hybridization
- Some orchid species are classified as CR,

**Philipppine pit viper** ★ (Trimeresurus flavomaculatus), **Luzon red-tailed rat snake** ★ (Coelognathus erythrura manillensis), **Luzon bronzeback snake** ★ (Dendrelaphis luzonensis)
- Camiguin Norte, Luzon, Catanduanes, Panay, Bohol, Mindanao, Polillo, Dinagat and Siargao
- Growing demand in international black markets. Traded online

**Philippine flying dragon** ★ (Draco spp.)
- Palawan, Mindanao, Bohol and Luzon
- Various endemic species occur on Batan Island, Bohol, Luzon,

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**Birds from Indonesia and New Guinea**

**Sulphur-crested cockatoos** (Cacatua galerita triton)
**Goffins cockatoos** (Cacatua goffiniana)
**Moluccan cockatoos** (Cacatua moluccensis)
**Palm cockatoos** (Probosciger aterrimus)
**Black-capped lories** (Lorius lory)
**Large fig-parrots** (Psittaculirostris desmarestii)

- Threatened species are being smuggled in and through the Philippines to meet demand for caged birds as pets
- Traded to and through the Philippines
WILDLIFE CRIME HOTSPOTS

Source: Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade and Biodiversity Management
Bureau, DENR-based on confiscation data and information from 2010-2018

**Main entry point of wildlife from Indonesia**
- 01 Balut Island, Davao Occidental

**Primary transhipment points and confiscation sites of wild animals from Indonesia**
- 01 General Santos
- 02 Glan, Sarangani
- 03 Lipata, Surigao del Norte
- 04 Metro Manila

**Transhipment points of wildlife**
- 01 Cavite (Tanza, Rosario, Bacoor)
- 02 Batangas (Balayan, Calatagan)
- 03 Lucena Port, Quezon
- 04 San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- 05 Matnog, Sorsogon
- 06 Allen Port, Samar
- 07 Medellin, Cebu
- 08 Liloan Port, Southern Leyte
- 09 Lipata Port, Surigao del Norte
- 10 Mati, Davao Oriental
- 11 Bacolod
- 12 Dingalan, Aurora

**Major confiscation sites of wild fauna**
- 01 Metro Manila
- 02 Zambales
- 03 Batangas
- 04 Cavite
- 05 Palawan
- 06 Cebu City
- 07 Surigao City
- 08 Cagayan de Oro
- 09 Pagadian City
- 10 Zamboanga City
- 11 Davao City
- 12 Bulacan

**Major confiscation sites of wild flora**
- 01 General Nakar, Quezon
- 02 Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte

**Major poaching sites**
Poaching occurs throughout the Philippines, these sites are based on DENR-BMB and PCSD confiscation data.
- 01 Palawan
- 02 Aurora
- 03 Quezon
- 04 Nueva Ecija
- 05 Samar
- 06 Leyte
- 07 Bohol
- 08 Agusan del Norte
- 09 Bukidnon
- 10 Mapun Island
- 11 Turtle Islands
- 12 Pampanga

ADB-DENR-GEF Project Sites
- 01 Cebu
- 02 Metro Manila
- 03 Butuan
About the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau

DENR-BMB is the National Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity and is responsible for the conservation of the country’s ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity. It is the management authority for CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) for terrestrial species, marine turtles, dugongs, and crocodiles, and regulates and monitors the international trade of CITES-listed species. Report wildlife crime by calling: 925 8952 and 925 8953 via facebook.com/denrbiodiversity.

www.bmb.gov.ph

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members—48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

www.adb.org

About the Global Environment Facility

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established in 1992 to help tackle our planet’s most pressing environmental problems. Thirty-nine (39) donor countries contribute to the GEF which is replenished every four years. The 7th Replenishment happened in July 2018, for US$ 4.1 billion committed for 2018-2022. GEF funds programs and projects in developing countries and countries in transition to meet the objectives of international environmental conventions and agreements. GEF provides funding to intergovernmental bodies, government agencies and departments, NGOs, civil society, indigenous people’s organizations and the private sector. ADB is one of 18 accredited GEF agencies.

www.thegef.org

About the Global Wildlife Program

The Global Wildlife Program is a World Bank-led global partnership that promotes wildlife conservation and sustainable development by combating illicit trafficking in wildlife. This seven-year, US$131 million grant program is expected to leverage an additional US$704 million in additional co-financing from a wide range of partners to promote conservation investments across Africa and Asia. By addressing the poaching crisis holistically through various country projects and a broader global project, it seeks to reduce both the supply and demand that drives the illegal wildlife trade and protect species and habitats through integrated landscape planning.