



**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



114 species of amphibians

342 species of reptiles, 68% are endemic



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



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



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.

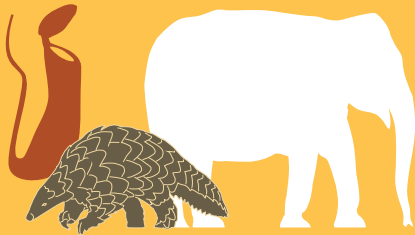


The Philippines is a consumer, source, and transit point for IWT, threatening endemic species populations, economic development, and biodiversity. The country has been a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity since 1992.

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.

MAJOR CONFISCATIONS AND SEIZURES

- **5 tons of elephant ivory tusks** (1996–2009)
- **1,522 mynas** (2000–2006)
- **652 blue-naped parrots** (2000–2006)
- **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.

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

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime: CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank, and the World Customs Organization.

PROJECT SITES: ★ Butuan ★ Metro Cebu ★ Metro Manila

PROJECT COMPONENTS

Outcomes

1 Strengthened legal frameworks

2 Long-term capacity building program

3 Increased sharing of information and knowledge

4 Demand reduction measures implemented



Outputs

1 Reforming and mainstreaming policy, legal and regulatory instruments

2 Assessing and addressing capacity and resource gaps across the entire law enforcement chain

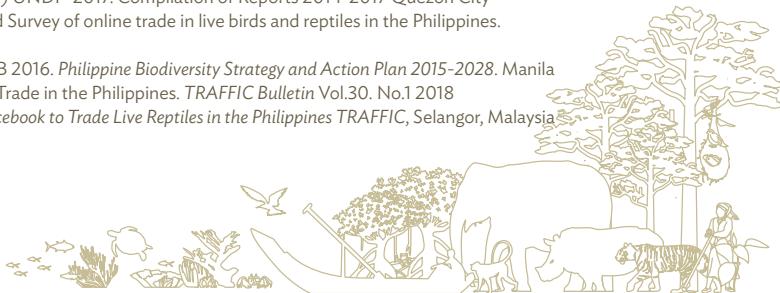
3 Training and roll-out: Port monitoring and tracking systems, CITES e-permitting system (E-Cites), intelligence gathering and case building

4 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

Cover Photo: “Last of the Dying Breed” from the book *Haring Ibon: The Great Philippine Eagle* by Alain Pascua. Special thanks to Alain Pascua, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, AA Yaptinchay, Miguel Lorenzo Mamon, Emerson Y. Sy, Erickson Tababay, and Francesco Ricciardi for photos. Illustrations by Ross Locsin Laccay.

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ILLEGALLY TRADED SPECIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Conservation status

- DENR Administrative Order 2004-15 (DAO-2004-15)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Appendices I and II (CITES)

CR

Critically endangered

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

EN

Endangered

Survival in the wild unlikely if the causal factors continue

VU

Vulnerable

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

OTS

Other threatened species

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

NL

Not Listed



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

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



Asian leaf turtle ★ (*Cyclemys dentata*)

- Balabac, Palawan, Siasi, Tawi-Tawi
- Illegally collected in Palawan and transported and traded in Metro Manila



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



Tokay Gecko ★ (*Gekko gekko*)

- 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 haematurpygia*)

- 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



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



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



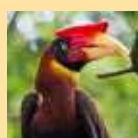
Bantigue/bantigi ★ (*Pemphis acidula*)

- Poached and traded for bonsai and ornamental plants



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



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



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



Philippine 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



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,



Philippine flying dragon ★ (*Draco spp.*)

- Palawan, Mindanao, Bohol and Luzon
- Various endemic species occur on Batan Island, Bohol, Luzon,

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 lorries (*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 transshipment points and confiscation sites of wild animals from Indonesia

- 01 General Santos
- 02 Glan, Saranggani
- 03 Lipata, Surigao del Norte
- 04 Metro Manila

Transshipment points of wildlife

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

Major confiscation sites of wild fauna

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 01 Metro Manila | 07 Surigao City |
| 02 Zambales | 08 Cagayan de Oro |
| 03 Batangas | 09 Pagadian City |
| 04 Cavite | 10 Zamboanga City |
| 05 Palawan | 11 Davao City |
| 06 Cebu City | 12 Bulacan |

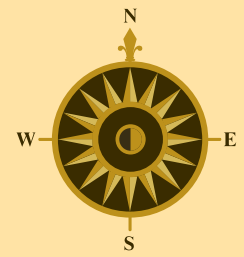
Major confiscation sites of wild flora

- 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 | 07 Bohol |
| 02 Aurora | 08 Agusan del Norte |
| 03 Quezon | 09 Bukidnon |
| 04 Nueva Ecija | 10 Mapun Island |
| 05 Samar | 11 Turtle Islands |
| 06 Leyte | 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](https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity).

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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.

www.worldbank.org/en/programs/global-wildlife-program