ADDRESSING THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES
THE PHILIPPINES

Second largest archipelago in the world comprising 7,641 islands

Most of the country’s 100 million people - projected to reach 125 million by 2030 - particularly the poor, depend on its biodiversity.

- 224 Protected Areas
- 228 Key Biodiversity Areas

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

- More than 52,177 described species half of which are endemic and cannot be found anywhere else

- 101 species of amphibians

- 228 Key Biodiversity Areas

- 258 species of reptiles - 68% are endemic

- 576 birds species (195 endemic and 126 restricted range species) making the Philippines the 4th most important country in bird endemism

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

- 5 of the 7 known marine turtle species are found in almost all Philippine seas: green, hawksbill, olive ridley, loggerhead, and leatherback turtles
THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE (IWT)

According to the World Bank’s Global Wildlife Program (GWP), the value of IWT is estimated at **US$7.8-10 billion per year**, making wildlife crime the fourth most lucrative illegal business after narcotics, human trafficking, and arms.

The Philippines is both a consumer, source, and transit point for trade in illegal wildlife and wildlife parts, 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 to be **PhP50 billion a year** roughly equivalent to **US$1 billion**, which includes the market value of the wildlife and resources, their ecological role and value, and damage to habitats incurred during poaching, and loss in potential ecotourism revenues.

### MAJOR CONFISCATIONS AND SEIZURES

- **5 tonnes of elephant ivory tusks** (1996-2009)
- **1,522 mynas** (2000-2006)
- **652 blue-naped parrots** (2000-2006)
- **95kg of pangolin scales and 36kg 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 are 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)

Source: Confiscation Records from DENR-BMB and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
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 roadmap 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

Combatting Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines

Supporting the implementation of WildLEAP in the Philippines through legal and institutional reforms, building capacity through 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 (BMB-DENR)

PROJECT SITES: ★ Butuan ★ Metro Cebu ★ Metro Manila

International Partners

### PROJECT COMPONENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Outputs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Strengthened legal frameworks</td>
<td>1. Reforming and mainstreaming policy, legal and regulatory instruments (Revisions to the Wildlife Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Long-term capacity building program</td>
<td>2. Assessing and addressing capacity and resource gaps across the entire law enforcement chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Increased sharing of information and knowledge</td>
<td>3. Training and roll-out: Port monitoring and tracking systems; CITES e-permitting system (E-Cites), intelligence gathering and case building, and Environmental Law Enforcement Management Information System (ELEMIS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Demand reduction measures implemented</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 and Miguel Lorenzo Mamon for photos.

**References:**
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
### Most traded species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Distribution</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Philippine forest turtle</strong> <em>(Siebenrockiella leytensis)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>Palawan</td>
<td>Rare semi-aquatic turtle, very high demand and value, poached to supply national and international black markets for pets and food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hawksbill turtle</strong> <em>(Eretmochelys imbricata)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Philippines, Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans and worldwide</td>
<td>Shells are primary source of &quot;tortoiseshell&quot; used for ornaments and jewelry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southeast Asian box turtle</strong> <em>(Coura amboinensis)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>Throughout the Philippines and SEAsia</td>
<td>Most commonly traded native turtle species and is particularly threatened by illegal and unsustainable collecting. Novice and impulse buyers are the main consumers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asian leaf turtle</strong> <em>(Cyclemis dentata)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>Palawan: Calamian Islands, Balabac and Leyte, SEAsia, South Asia, and China</td>
<td>Illegally collected in Palawan and transported and traded in Metro Manila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Palawan pangolin</strong> <em>(Manis culionensis)</em></td>
<td>Critically Endangered</td>
<td>Palawan faunal region</td>
<td>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. In high demand for meat as a luxury food and scales for traditional medicine, particularly in Metro Manila.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Blue-naped parrot</strong> <em>(Tanygnathus lucionensis)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>Luzon and Mindoro</td>
<td>Illegally sold throughout the country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hill mynah</strong> <em>(Gracula religiosa)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>Balabac, Busuanga, Culion, and Palawan</td>
<td>Poached from forests for local pet trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tockay Gecko</strong> <em>(Gekko gecko)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>Throughout the Philippines, SEAsia, and South Asia</td>
<td>Suffered from collection frenzy because of rumor that they cure HIV AIDS and could be sold for thousands of pesos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Also Traded and/or Threatened

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

**Philippine cockatoo** *(Cacatua haematuropygia)*
- Basilan, Bongao, Cabo, Jolo, Mindanao, Omapoy, Pangapuyan, Saluag, Sanga Sanga, Siasi, Simunul, Talicud, Tataan, and Tawi–tawi
- High demand and value. Hunters and trappers raid all unprotected cockatoo nests. Rapid population decline due to loss of lowland habitats and cagebird trade.

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

**Minadanao water monitor** *(Varanus cumingi)*  
**Malay monitor lizard** *(Varanus marmoratus)*
- Luzon, Palawan, Calamian, and Sulu archipelago
- Collected from wild to supply demand for traditional medicine, food, skins, ornaments, and pets
- Threat significantly exacerbated by online trade

**Philippine sailfin lizard** *(Hydrosaurus pustulatus)*
- Luzon, Polillo, Mindoro, Negros, Dinagat, Mindanao, Panay
- In high demand for the exotic pet trade

**Luzon red-tailed rat snake** *(Coelognathus erythrura manillensis)*, **Luzon bronzeback snake** *(Dendrelaphis luzonensis)*, **Philippine yellow spotted pit viper** *(Trimeresurus flavomaculatus)*
- Banton, Catanduanes, Luzon, Marinduque, and Polillo
- Growing demand in both national and international black markets. Traded online

**Philippine cockatoo** *(Penelopides panini)*
- Guimaras, Masbate, Negros, Pan de Azucar, Panay, and Sicogon
- Sold widespread and online
- Visayan and Mindoro Hornbill are endangered

**Luzon Tarictic hornbill** *(Penelopides panini)*
- Widespread throughout the Philippines
- Juveniles or very young birds are in demand for the caged bird trade, exacerbated by online trading

**Brahminy kite** *(Haliastur indus)*
- Widespread throughout the Philippines
- Juveniles or very young birds are in demand for the caged bird trade, exacerbated by online trading
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<th>Animal Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Distribution</th>
<th>Threats/Concerns</th>
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<td>Illegal trade widespread, hunted and poached for exotic pet trade and trade in eagle parts</td>
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<td>(Nepenthes sp)</td>
<td>Around 53 known species</td>
<td>Traded and sought after by hobbyists locally and internationally</td>
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**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

**Orchids** *(Orchidaceae)*
- Many are endemic, all over forested areas
- More than 1,000 known species
- It is possible that some species may have gone extinct without our knowledge due to indiscriminate harvesting
- Traded throughout the country
- Genetic pollution from hybridization

**Common flying lizard** *(Draco volans)*
- Palawan, Mindanao, Bohol and Luzon and throughout SEAsia
- Not traded as pets. High demand for traditional Chinese medicine

**Northern Luzon giant cloud rat** *(Phloeomys pallidus)*
- Widespread in northern and central Luzon
- Collected by hunters and sold as pets to collectors and zoos

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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 bird species are being smuggled in and through the Philippines to meet demand for caged birds as pets.
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

Major poaching sites
Poaching occurs throughout the Philippines, these sites are based on DENR-BMB and PCSD confiscation data.

01 Coron
02 El Nido
03 Taytay
04 Narra
05 Quezon
06 Rizal
07 Half Moon Shoal
08 Balabac
09 Turtle Islands
10 Mapun
11 Agusan del Norte
12 Bukidnon
13 Aurora
14 Samar
15 Leyte
16 Bohol

Major destinations and confiscations sites of wild fauna

01 Metro Manila
02 Zambales
03 Batangas
04 Coron
05 El Nido
06 Taytay
07 Narra
08 Quezon
09 Rizal
10 Half Moon Shoal
11 Tubbataha
12 Cebu City
13 Surigao City
14 Cagayan de Oro
15 Pagadian City
16 Zamboanga City
17 Davao City
18 Bulacan

Major flora confiscation sites

01 South Pinagpandayan, Brgy. Umiray Dinalan, Aurora
02 Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte

Transhipment points of wild fauna

01 Cavite (Tanza, Rosario, Bacoor)
02 Batangas (Balayan, Calatagan)
03 Lucena Port, Quezon
04 San Jose, Oriental 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 Dumaguete

Entry points of wild animals from Indonesia
01 Balut Island, Davao del Sur

Primary transhipment points and confiscation sites of wild animals from Indonesia

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

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 genetic resources, ecosystems and endangered species of Philippine flora and fauna. 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.

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 / departments, NGOs, civil society, indigenous people’s organizations and the private sector. ADB is one of 18 accredited GEF funding agencies.

www.thegef.org

About the Global Wildlife Program
The GWP is a World-Bank led global partnership that promotes wildlife conservation and sustainable development by combatting 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.