

# Country Profile: Philippines



Image by National Geographic

## OVERVIEW

**Project Title:** Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines

**Project Sites:** General Santos, Davao, Butuan, Cebu, Metro Manila

**Species Focus:** Elephants (demand reduction), pangolins, turtles and reptiles.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1.8 million

**Executing Partner:** Biodiversity Management Bureau - Department of Environment and Natural Resources (BMB-DENR)

**GEF Implementing Agency:** Asian Development Bank

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## CONTEXT

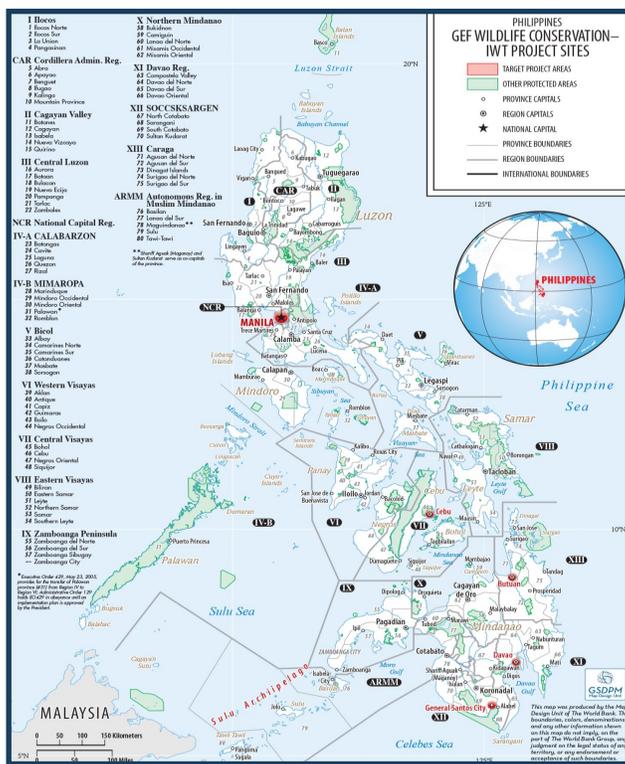
The Philippines is one of 17 mega-diverse countries, which hosts more than 36,000 species of plants and animals. However, economic pressures combined with widespread illegal activity, including the trade in wildlife and wildlife parts, make this country a major biodiversity “hotspot”. Each year, the country loses natural resources valued at over US\$ 1 billion (PHP 50 bn) from environmental crimes. Through the Illegal wildlife trade specifically, annual economic losses of about US\$ 230 million (PHP 11 bn) per year are incurred, mainly through foregone tourism revenues.

The newly drafted national Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan (WildLEAP) which will be implemented from 2017-2028, is aligned with the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) which outlines a broad framework for interventions. WildLEAP builds on national and local achievements to date, and aims to complement existing laws governing forestry and fisheries sectors. It will support: a) capacity building and training; b) communication, education, and public awareness; c) policy formulation; d) networking and coordination; e) good governance; f) curbing of corruption; and g) resource mobilization. DENR-BMB will coordinate WildLEAP implementation in collaboration with key law enforcement agencies, regional, provincial and local government bodies, and civil society organizations, among other stakeholders.

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Philippines project aims to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines. The project components are:

1. Implementing policy, legal, and regulatory reforms
2. Improving legal and tactical enforcement operations in targeted “hotspot” areas
3. Enhancing capacity to implement electronic CITES permitting system
4. Reducing demand for illegal wildlife products



See the World Bank website for more information: [Global Wildlife Program](#)