



ADDRESSING THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES

THE PHILIPPINES

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

Many 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

More than 1,130 recorded terrestrial wildlife species, held of which are endemic



101 species of amphibians

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



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)

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	Outputs
<div>1</div> Strengthened legal frameworks	<div>1</div> Reforming and mainstreaming policy, legal and regulatory instruments (Revisions to the Wildlife Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations)
<div>2</div> Long-term capacity building program	<div>2</div> Assessing and addressing capacity and resource gaps across the entire law enforcement chain
<div>3</div> Increased sharing of information and knowledge	<div>3</div> 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)
<div>4</div> Demand reduction measures implemented	<div>4</div> 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 and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development for photos

References:

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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.

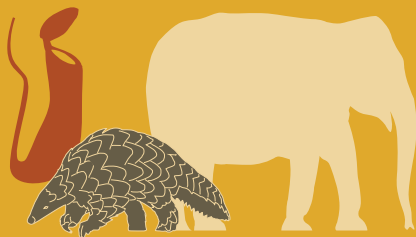


The Philippines is both a consumer, source, and transit point for trade in illegal wildlife and wildlife parts, threatening endemic species populations, economic development, and biodiversity. The country has been a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity since 1992.

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 36k 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 Goffin's cockatoo** (2017)
- **nearly 1,000 endemic, threatened pitcher plants and lady slipper orchids** (2017)
- **106 Sulfur-crested cockatoos** (2018)
- **462 Indonesian endemic parrots over at least 4 seizures** (2013 – 2017)



ILLEGALLY TRADED SPECIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Conservation status

DENR Administrative Order 2004-15

CITES

EN

Endangered

Survival in the wild unlikely if the causal factors continue

OTS

Other threatened species

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

CR

Critically endangered

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

VU

Vulnerable

Under threat from adverse factors throughout its range. Likely to be endangered in the 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
- Extremely rare 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
- 1 of 5 marine turtle species in the Philippines
- shells are primary source of “tortoiseshell”



Southeast Asian box turtle ★

(*Coura 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 ★

(*Cyclemis dentata*)

- Palawan: Calamian Islands, Balabac and Leyte, SEAsia, South Asia, and China
- Illegally collected in Palawan and transported and traded in Metro Manila



Palawan pangolin ★

(*Manis culionensis*)

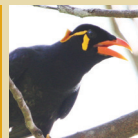
- Palawan faunal region
- Critically Endangered through the issuance of PCSD Resolution No. 15-521. No trade or hunting of the species is allowed, not even by indigenous groups
- In high demand for meat as a luxury food and scales for traditional medicine, particularly in Metro Manila.
- Wild populations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



Blue-naped parrot ★

(*Tanygnathus lucionensis*)

- Luzon and Mindoro
- Illegally sold throughout the country



Hill mynah ★

(*Gracula religiosa*)
Palawan Hill Mynah “Philippine Talking Mynah” or Palawan Mynah

- Balabac, Busuanga, Culion, and Palawan
- Poached from forests for local pet trade



Tockay Gecko ★

- Throughout the Philippines, SEAsia, and South Asia
- Suffered from collection frenzy 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 coucang*)

- Sulu Archipelago
- Trading localized to Mindanao, and Malaysia, but sold in streets



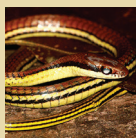
Philippine sailfin lizard ★
(*Hydrosaurus pustulatus*)

- Luzon, Polillo, Mindoro, Negros, Dinagat, Mindanao, Panay
- In high demand for the exotic pet trade



Philippine cockatoo ★
(*Cacatua haematurpygia*)

- 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.



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



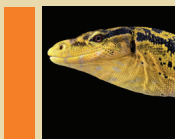
Giant golden-crowned flying fox ★
(*Acerodon jubatus*)

- Philippines except Palawan faunal region, Batanes and Babuyan
- Facing possible extinction because of poaching and forest destruction



Visayan Tarictic hornbill ★
(*Penelopides panini*)

- Guimaras, Masbate, Negros, Pan de Azucar, Panay, and Sicogon
- Sold widespread and online
- Visayan and Mindoro Hornbill are endangered



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



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



Philippine serpent eagle ★ (*Spilornis holospilus*)

- Widespread except Palawan
- Illegal trade widespread



Pitcher plants (*Nepenthes sp*)

- Around 53 known species
- Traded and sought after by hobbyists locally and internationally



Luzon lowland scops owl ★ (*Otus megalotis*)

- Catanduanes, Luzon, and Marinduque
- Poached by hunters and sold to collectors on the street, black market and online



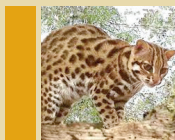
Bantigue ★ (*Pemphis acidula*)

- Poached and exported for the bonsai and ornamental plant trade



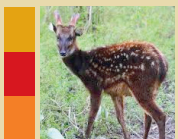
Philippine hanging parrot “Colasisi” ★ (*Loriculus philippensis*)

- Banton, Catanduanes, Luzon, Marinduque, and Polillo
- Sold in wet markets and streets
- Some subspecies are very rare, and simply not evaluated



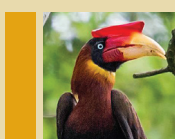
Leopard cat ★ (*Prionailurus bengalensis*)

- Busuanga, Cebu, Negros, Palawan and Panay
- Dwindling populations limit trading activities. Sought after by zoos



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/Batanes groups
- Hunted for meat
- Philippine deer is vulnerable, others are endangered



Rufous hornbill ★ (*Buceros hydrocorax*)

- Luzon and Marinduque
- Threatened by habitat loss, hunting and poaching to meet national and international demand
- Juvenile birds 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



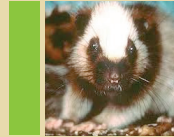
Orchids (*Orchidaceae*)

- 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

Birds from Indonesia and New Guinea



- Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** (*Cacatua galerita triton*),
- Goffin's cockatoo** (*Cacatua goffiniana*),
- Moluccan Cockatoos** (*Cacatua moluccensis*),
- Palm Cockatoos** (*Probosciger aterrimus*),
- Black-capped Lories** (*Lorius lory*),
- Large Fig-parrots** (*Psittaculirostris desmarestii*)

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

Entry points of wild animals from Indonesia

- 01 Balut Island, Davao del Sur

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

Other transshipment 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

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

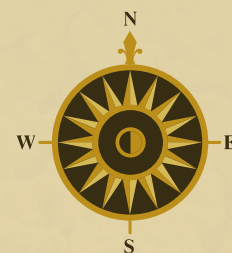
Major poaching sites

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

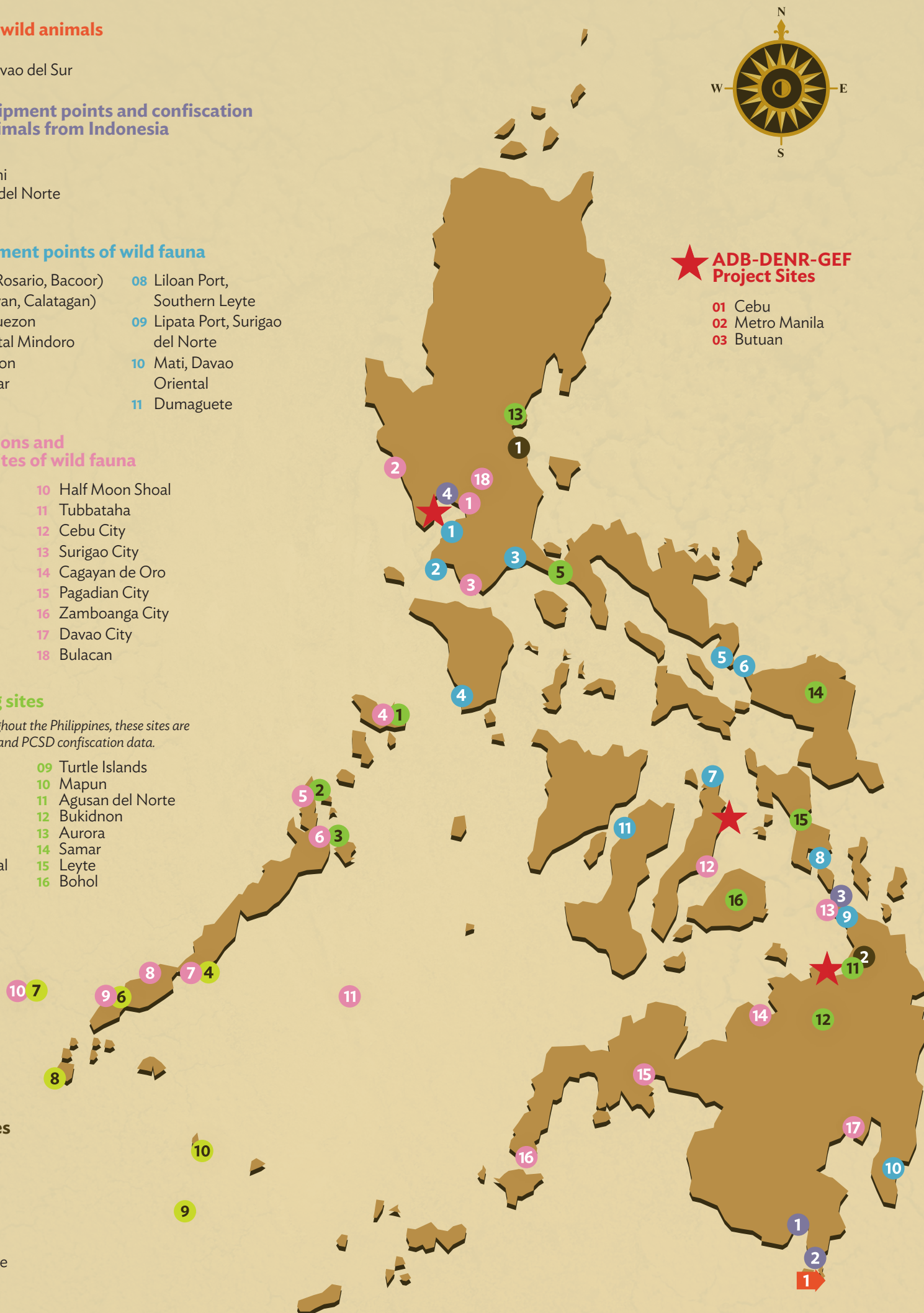
Major flora confiscation sites

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



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.

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