Concept Note on the Creation of a

National Anti-Wildlife Crime Council (NAWCC) and the National Ant-Wildlife Crime Task Force (Task Force Wildlife)

**Introduction**

Wildlife crime remains one of the most significant forms of organized crime in the world today and is threatening Asia’s biodiversity and human populations more than ever. An urgent call to action is being made by the world leaders and conservationists from across Asia to measure ongoing efforts that aim to address this serious crisis and to quickly determine the most effective steps combat wildlife crime.

Enforcement of national and global nature conservation laws contributes to economic development and environmental health, and thus political stability for range countries. Protected wildlife areas (national parks and sanctuaries) are “banks” of biodiversity, which contribute to national food production, human health, eco-tourism and a country’s economy in general. Entire watersheds, on which human populations depend for agriculture, clean water and air, are degraded by activities such as poaching and illegal logging. Destruction of these natural resources leads to overpopulation in urban areas, which leads to extreme poverty and ultimately civil unrest as disenfranchised groups search for means of survival. The loss of natural resources and subsequent disenfranchisement of those who depend on the resources for survival have been shown to create ideal conditions for the formation of insurgent groups.

Wildlife law enforcement contributes to regional stability and improves the rule of law throughout Asia by strengthening enforcement efforts against criminal syndicates that are responsible for the illegal trade in wild plants, animals and other illegal goods. Wildlife law enforcement efforts at the national and regional levels in Asia (like the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network[[1]](#footnote-1)) protects not only the ecological integrity of Asia but also enhances protection of biodiversity in other parts of the world, especially considering that much of the global illegal wildlife trade finds its way to Asia. Furthermore, wildlife law enforcement helps to mitigate climate change. Forest health results from myriad interacting systems, including the presence of a vast array of species, each of which contributes to the vitality and integrity of the ecosystem through seed dispersal, fertilization, and regulation of population levels of each other. Adequate numbers and genetic variability of each species must be maintained for a healthy ecosystem to sustain itself. The illegal wildlife trade threatens far more than our forests and marine areas. Loss of biodiversity weakens natural ecosystems that play vital roles in food production and harvesting. It also supports organized national and transnational crime networks, and is recognized to increase the risk of transmitting emerging infectious diseases, such as avian pandemic influenza and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Law enforcement efforts confronting the wildlife trade in the Philippines are predominantly concentrated on medium to low level individual traders, and efforts targeting the bigger sophisticated criminal networks have been constrained by their political and business connections. The Office of the President, through the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission, hosted the then NAECTAF, the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (EO 515-2006) that was subsequently abolished in 2007. Though, the mandate of NAECTAF was to enforce a comprehensive suite of environmental laws, they were then focused on combatting wildlife trafficking, forestry and coastal/fisheries crimes.

**National Anti-Wildlife Crime Council**

With the emergence of recent regional and international commitments wherein the Philippines is a signatory and/or a party, the Office of the President with a concerted effort of relevant government agencies and partners should initiate a strategic innovation in ASEAN to host and operationalize a National Anti-Wildlife Crime Council or NAWCC under its purview. As a strategic and tactical arm under the Office of the President, NAWCC and its Task Force Wildlife can act as the central coordinating body for all biodiversity protection and enforcement initiatives of the country.

**Legislation**

The NAWCC shall take cognizance of the illegal activities involving violations of the following laws:

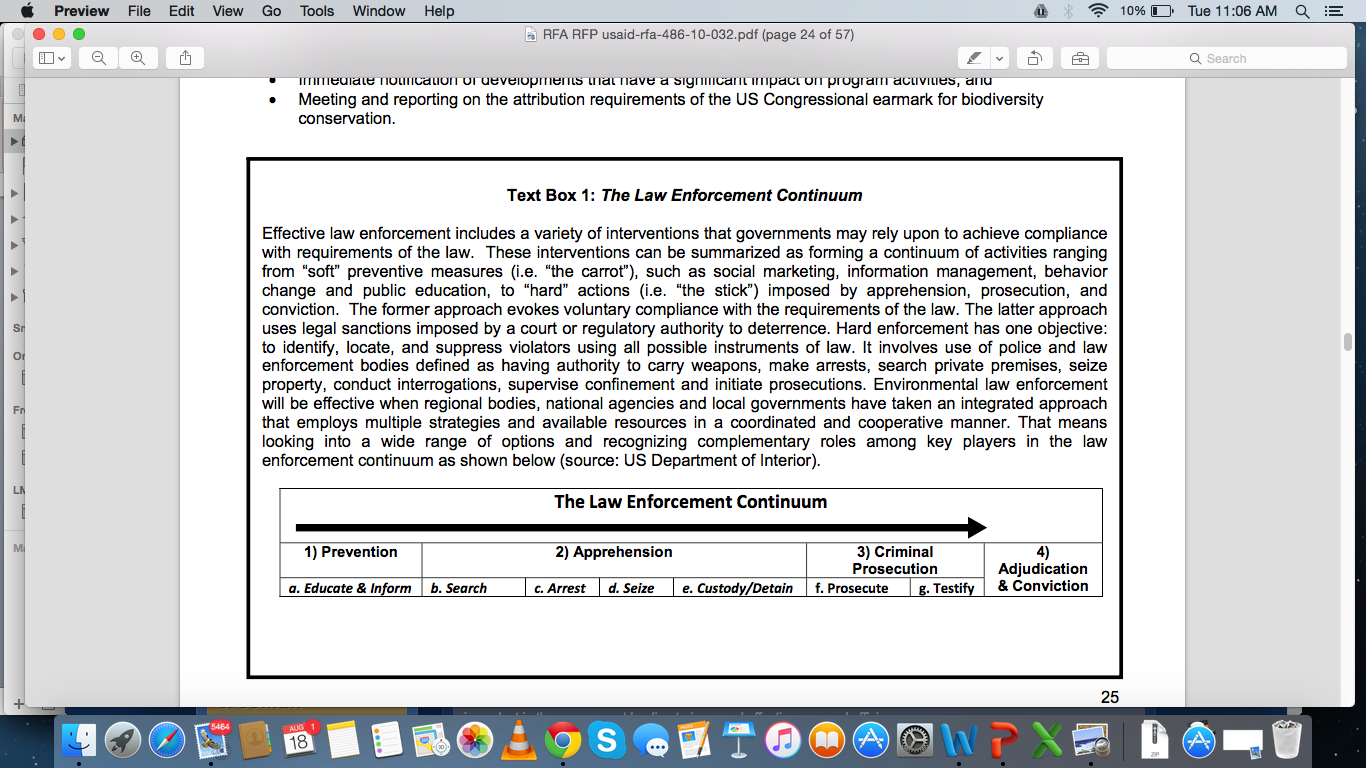
1. **Republic Act 9147**, Otherwise Known as the “Wildlife Resources, Conservation and Protection Act of 2001”; **Presidential Decree 705**, otherwise known as the "Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines." as amended
2. **Republic Act 8550** as amended by **RA Republic Act 10654**, otherwise known as the "Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998"
3. Any other laws where the subject matter involves or affects wildlife and forest, which covers all flora and fauna, including aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources, as well as timber and non-timber forest products.

**International Representation**

The NAWCC shall be the centralized body to represent the Philippines in multiple wildlife and biodiversity protection/ enforcement confabs and platforms, namely the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ARKN-FLEG), International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (a partnership involving the CITES (Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Secretariat, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO), International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (IMCS) Network, and other regional and global enforcement networks.

Since 2006, the Philippines established national environmental law enforcement Task Forces, covering the broad spectrum of environmental laws, to wildlife-focused enforcement matters. However, these Task Forces are either disbanded, or ad hoc, non-tactical/operational, which limits the effectiveness of the law enforcement continuum. (Refer to Text Box No. 1)

The NAWCC and its Task Force Wildlife is designed to achieve the prevention, apprehension, and criminal prosecution of wildlife crimes.



The NAWCC will communicate with the different departments, bureaus and agencies, institutions, and units in the Philippines and internationally within the ASEAN-WEN/ ICCWC framework, allowing the NAWCC/ Task Force Wildlife, with an enhanced investigation team, to effectively conduct investigations against trans-national criminals operating in the Philippines.

The primary objective of operationalizing NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife is to enhance the suppression of the major illegal wildlife trade both nationally and internationally by addressing gaps in existing law enforcement and undertaking action against major illegal traders and crime networks involved in the collecting, selling and smuggling of wildlife, per national laws, within the framework of ASEAN. Additional objectives include increasing skills for the investigation and analysis of information on nature crime and heightening awareness of this illegal activity within concerned agencies in the Philippines.

**Black Market Value of Wildlife Crime**

The 2013 UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)’s *"Transnational Organized Crime in East Asia and the Pacific: a Threat Assessment Report “* reported that the largest black market in wildlife products in the region appears to be that of marine wildlife, which is estimated to generate US$850 million per year. In total, the regional value for the illicit wildlife trade, which includes wildlife that is traded clandestinely or deceptively, is conservatively estimated at US$2.5 billion a year (excluding illegal timber and off-shore fishing). Based on official bilateral trade flow statistics, it is estimated that the value of illegal trade from and within the region in wood-based products is around US$17 billion. Economic losses from Illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing (IUU) has a global value estimated at $10 to $23 billion annually.

Combined estimates from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNEP and INTERPOL place the monetary value of all environmental crime — which includes logging, poaching and trafficking of a wide range of animals, illegal fisheries, illegal mining and dumping of toxic waste—at between $70 and $213 billion each year. Illegal logging and forest crime has an estimated worth of $30 to $100 billion annually, or 10 to 30 percent of the total global timber trade. An estimated 50 to 90 percent of the wood in some individual tropical countries is suspected to come from illegal sources or has been logged illegally.[[2]](#footnote-2) A Senate Committee in the Philippines estimated that the country lost as much as US$1.8 billion per year from illegal logging during the 1980s. The Indonesian Government estimated in 2002 that costs or foregone revenues related to illegal logging were US$3 billion a year. The real economic value of the environmental services lost to the illegal timber and other illicit wildlife trades is difficult to estimate and may not be apparent in the short term. [[3]](#footnote-3)

**Zoonotic Viruses Associated with Illegally Imported Wildlife Products[[4]](#footnote-4)**

No adequate estimate of numbers of wildlife traded throughout the world exists given the large size and covert nature of the business. Beyond the threats to conservation, the intermingling of wildlife, domestic animals and humans during the process of wildlife extraction, consumption, and trade can serve as a vessel for pathogen exchange. Nearly 75% of emerging infectious diseases in humans are of zoonotic origin, the majority of which originate in wildlife. Therefore infectious diseases acquired from contact with wildlife, such as occurs via the wildlife trade, are increasingly of concern to global public health. Trade in live animals and animal products has led to the emergence of several zoonotic pathogens, of which RNA viruses are the most common. **SARS** emerged as a respiratory and gastrointestinal disease in southwest China and within months had spread to 29 other countries, eventually leading to 8,098 cases and 774 deaths. Masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*) traded in the markets of Guangdong were found to be infected and a large proportion of the early cases were restaurant workers who bought and butchered wildlife from these markets. Unregulated or weak enforcement of trade policies and proliferation of black markets risk the emergence of pathogen exchange.

The global trade in wildlife provides disease transmission mechanisms that not only cause human disease outbreaks but also threaten livestock, international trade, rural livelihoods, native wildlife populations, and the health of ecosystems. Outbreaks resulting from wildlife trade have caused hundreds of billions of dollars of economic damage globally. Rather than attempting to eradicate pathogens or the wild species that may harbor them, a practical approach would include decreasing the contact rate among species, including humans, at the interface created by the wildlife trade.[[5]](#footnote-5)

**Terrorism and Illegal Wildlife Trade**

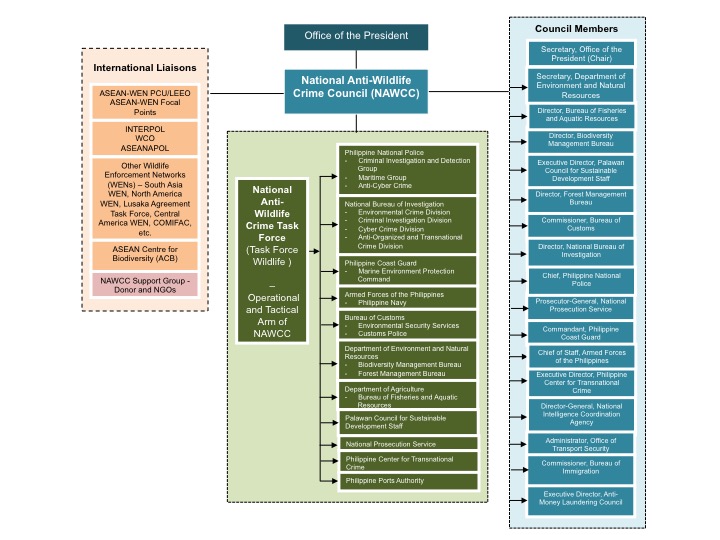
African terrorist groups such as al-Shabaab, The Lord’s Resistance Army, Boko Haram and Janjaweed use the sale of illegal ivory to carry out attacks. [[6]](#footnote-6)

In 2007, the CITES-sanctioned Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) analysis highlighted the role of the Philippines, both for its domestic ivory trade and for the role of the country as a transit point for ivory originating from Africa or elsewhere in Asia and en route to markets in China.[[7]](#footnote-7) The analysis identified the Philippines as one of the “major transit points in the illicit trade,” and also noted “a new carving industry producing religious sculptures and artifacts has recently been identified in the Philippines that may be linked to an export trade to Italy, the Holy See and perhaps other destinations.”

**1. Responding to International and Regional Commitments**

1. United Nations General Assembly resolution A/69/L.80 (2015), urges Member States to take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife, investigation and prosecution of such illegal trade as well as strengthening enforcement and criminal justice responses, in accordance with national legislation and international law, as well as to establish national- level inter-agency wildlife crime Task Forces, consistent with national legislation.
2. United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/98 (2007), adopted a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, by which Member States and others were called upon to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance at all levels, as well as to strengthen, through enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation, the capacity of countries to combat illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources.
3. United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) resolution 2001/12 urges Member States to adopt "legislative or other measures necessary for establishing illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna as a criminal offence in their domestic legislation" (2001), and in subsequent, UN ECOSOC resolution 2003/27 which encourages Member States to adopt, where necessary, preventive measures together with a review of their criminal legislation in order to ensure that the serious nature of these offences relating to trafficking in protected species is punishable by appropriate penalties (2003); the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) resolution 16/1 (2007) "International cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife, and other forest biological resources"; the UN ECOSOC resolution 2008/25 on the need for international cooperation and called for "holistic and comprehensive national multi-sectoral approaches to preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber wildlife, and other forest biological resources (2008)”
4. In 2013 the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) issued Resolution 2013/40, which encourages all member States to promote bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups as a serious crime, as defined in article 2, paragraph (b), of the UNTOC, in order to ensure that adequate and effective means of international cooperation can be afforded under the Convention in the investigation and prosecution of those engaged in illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora.
5. United Nations’ Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) constitutes the current legal framework and instrument for the international community to regulate and control the trade of endangered species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
6. Philippines’ commitments to the 2014 *“East Asia Summit Declaration on Wildlife Trafficking”*together with other Heads of States and Government of ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Russia, which urges relevant governments to carry-out steps to ensure effective networking and corporation that strengthen efforts against illicit trafficking and illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products at the national level and in collaboration with other related regional bodies and initiatives, and create national-level wildlife crime Task Forces, consistent with national circumstances, and identification of priority areas of engagement for collaboration in capacity building, information sharing, technology transfer, technical assistance and direct support for law enforcement operations.
7. In August 2013 the Foreign Ministers from the East Asia Summit (EAS) endorsed wildlife crime as being a new threat under the *Non-traditional Security and Non-proliferation* purview in the region. The leaders at the 9th EAS adopted this in November 2014, where the Heads of all ASEAN member States – as well as those from Australia, People’s Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, and the United States of America – agreed on the East Asia Summit Declaration on Combating Wildlife Trafficking.
8. The 22nd APEC Economic Leaders’ Declaration 2014 “Beijing Agenda for an Integrated, Innovative and Interconnected Asia-Pacific” - APEC leaders commit to continue our efforts in combating wildlife trafficking. We will take steps to combat wildlife trafficking by enhancing international cooperation through Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) and other existing mechanisms, reducing the supply of and demand for illegally traded wildlife, increasing public awareness and education related to wildlife trafficking and its impacts, and treating wildlife trafficking crimes seriously.
9. In 2012 over 400 parliamentarians, ministers, and senior government officials convened for the 33rd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) General Assembly in Lombok, Indonesia, and approved a resolution to strengthen law enforcement and regional cooperation in order to combat wildlife crime. The resolution called upon AIPA member Parliaments to place wildlife crime onto the permanent agendas of the ASEAN SOMTC (Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Organized Crimes) and ASEANAPOL (ASEAN Chiefs of Police), and strengthening national Task Forces to support ASEAN-WEN.
10. Commitments of the Philippines to ASEAN’s strategic objectives and actions, guiding the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), ASEANAPOL, and the ASEAN Cooperation on Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors and its Strategic Plan (2016-2020), which calls for stronger national actions to create inter-agency Task Forces and mechanisms to combat wildlife crime

***Diagram 1: Proposed Structure***

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1. **NAWCC Membership, Duties, Structure and Responsibilities**
2. Chairman of NAWCC with Cabinet-level Secretary rank, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

Ex-officio Members:

1. Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Member
2. Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) – Member
3. Executive Director of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) - Member
4. Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) – Member
5. Director of the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) – Member
6. Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs (BoC) - Member
7. Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) – Member
8. Prosecutor General of the National Prosecution Service (NPS) – Member
9. Director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) – Member
10. Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) – Member
11. Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) – Member
12. Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime (PCTC) – Member
13. Director General of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA)- Member
14. Administrator of the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) – Member
15. Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) – of the Department of Justice (DOJ)- Member
16. Executive Director of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) –of the Department of Finance (DOF)- Member

**2. NAWCC Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Exercise general control and supervision over the National Anti-Wildlife Crime Task Force;
2. Recommend the issuance of appropriate policies and/or legislation of laws that would hasten the arrest and prosecution of wildlife law violators;
3. Formulate and issue guidelines in support to the protection of wildlife resources and to enhance inter-agency coordination and collaboration in wildlife law enforcement;
4. Subject to existing laws, grant monetary rewards or incentives to informants giving vital information leading to the successful prosecution of criminal offenders against the environment;
5. Subject to existing laws, coordinate with the Witness Protection Program of the Department of Justice to evaluate and assess witnesses who may qualify under the provisions of Republic Act No. 6981, otherwise known as the Witness Protection and Benefit Act;
6. Refer to AMLC cases, which involve alleged proceeds and gains arising from wildlife crime for purposes of initiating forfeiture and seizure proceedings;
7. Provide assistance to the Judiciary in enhancing judicial capacities in the adjudication and resolution of cases involving wildlife and forest crimes;
8. Represent the Philippines in regional and international conferences, meetings, fora and other similar events on wildlife law enforcement;
9. Call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned and/or-controlled corporations and local government units to assist in the anti-wildlife crime drive for a more resolute prevention, detection and investigation of wildlife crime;
10. Recruit civilian personnel and enlist their services; and,
11. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the President or as may be necessary, consistent with its basic functions.

**3. Task Force Wildlife Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Intelligence: Gather information about illegal activities; process such information into intelligence that can be used for analysis and planning; maintain a database relating to wildlife crimes, offenders, modus operandi and other information for the purpose of advancing the fight against wildlife and forest crimes;
2. Planning: Formulate plans for investigations based on intelligence analysis; design a sustainability plan for the NAWCC and the Task Force Wildlife;
3. Tactical operation: Build case evidence, including conduct of surveillance utilizing investigative techniques; review documents and interview witnesses; obtain warrants; conduct raids to arrest suspects; confiscate and seize illegal wildlife and forest products, including by-products and derivatives as well as all paraphernalia, tools and conveyances used in connection with wildlife and forest crimes; ensure proper turn-over of confiscated specimens and items to the responsible agencies;
4. Legal: Prepare legal documents; file appropriate administrative and/or criminal complaints for the prosecution of wildlife and forest crimes; coordinate with the Environmental Ombudsman as well as with public, private and special prosecutors to ensure successful prosecution; monitor status of cases filed in court; and,
5. Linkaging: Participate in bilateral, multi-lateral, regional and global wildlife enforcement operations such as those conducted by ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), ASEANAPOL, INTERPOL, and World Customs Organization (WCO); coordinate with the media, civil society and the public on the Task Force Wildlife activities and results of prosecutions; undertake public awareness campaign to reduce supply and demand for illegal wildlife and forest products; and, call upon any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned and/or-controlled corporations and local government units to assist in anti-wildlife crime drive for a more resolute prevention, detection and investigation of wildlife and forest crimes;
6. Administration: Develop work and budget plans; maintain a functional staffing pattern; hire the services of qualified technical consultants as may be necessary, upon the approval of the NAWCC; administer the funds intended for NAWCC and Task Force Wildlife use and ensure that public funds is disbursed in accordance with existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations; prepare Task Force Wildlife reports and submit such reports to NAWCC; and, perform other administrative and finance-related functions.

**4. Command and Coordination**

1. The NAWCC Chairperson shall report and be directly responsible to the President;
2. The NAWCC Chairperson shall have immediate supervision and control over all units of the Task Forces. He is authorized to designate duties and functions of personnel under him;
3. The component units from the PNP, AFP, NBI, PCG, BoC, DENR, DA, PCSDS, NPS, PCTC, and selected/chosen representatives of other government agencies shall be seconded to the Task Force Wildlife by their respective mother units. The Task Force Wildlife shall have direct operational and supervisory authority over these personnel, and resources detailed with the Task Force Wildlife from the government agencies concerned.

The following personnel are proposed for the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife: Director, Deputy Director, Legal Head and Coordinator/Data Collection Officer.

**NAWCC / Task Force Director.** The NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife Director reports directly to the NAWCC Chairman/SEC and supervises all NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife operational activities. The Director should consult closely with the other agencies involved and translate general policy into activities that will result in successful operations. The NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife Director may be appointed as a seconded official from either the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) or the Philippine National Police (PNP), or appointed by the Chairman/SEC from the Office of the President. Duties should include but not be limited to:

* Providing quarterly reports to the NAWCC Chairman/SEC, and Member Agencies;
* Maintaining regular contact with Philippine government agencies and other relevant organizations as needed;
* Initiates contact with agencies to involve them in the suppression of the wildlife trade;

**NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife** **Deputy Director.** The NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife Deputy Director reports directly to the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife Director and co-supervises all NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife operation activities. The Deputy Director should consult closely with the other agencies involved and translate general policy into activities that will result in successful operations. The NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife Deputy Director may be appointed as a seconded official from the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), the Philippine National Police (PNP) or from the Office of the President.

**Legal Head**. Due to the importance of this position as a law enforcement role, it is recommended that the a seconded state prosecutor from the National Prosecution Service assume the position as the Legal Head, at 50% of working time. Duties include, but are not limited to:

* Formulating plans and issuing orders for all intelligence/information collection activities;
* Formulating plans and issuing orders for investigation and enforcement action;
* Pass on relevant information about illegal wildlife trade to the national level taskforce, Customs and border police, among others;
* Establishing and maintaining Terms of References and interagency procedures for law enforcement activity, with prosecutor as necessary;
* Initiating and following up on all legal aspects pertaining to wildlife enforcement network, including liaising with other legal agencies (both nationally and internationally);
* Be the main contact person at the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife to receive information from agencies, institutions and individuals.
* Assess what information needs to be entered into the database by the Data Collection Officer;
* Ensuring the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife activities follow with the mandate for ASEAN-WEN;

**The Data Collection and Analysis Officer.** This position at 50% of working time will focus primarily on the collation, secure storing and analysis of intelligence and information. The Data Collection and Analysis Officer must have prequalification in running and maintaining intelligence data bases. They are required to be a government officer that present duties involve criminal data collection and analysis so that their capacity can be developed in this position and sustained after the end of the project. The NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife Data Collection and Analysis Officer may be appointed as a seconded official from the National Bureau of Investigation. Duties should include, but not be limited to:

* Developing (creating or modifying an existing) database for the storage of information by 6 months that includes linked information for suspects and criminal activity;
* Collect data from NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife cases, other agencies and organizations and input into database on an ongoing basis;
* Conduct analysis on the data received on an ongoing basis;
* Be the secondary contact person at the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife to receive information from agencies, institutions and individuals.
* Submit detailed intelligence reports on suspects and illegal activity to further operations, as required based on analysis of collected data from numerous sources;
* Writing and collating a quarterly newsletter to be distributed to international and national liaisons and relevant organizations.

**Administrative Officer** will be responsible for the efficient office administration of the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife.

* Creating and maintaining personnel files, official correspondence and financial records;
* Creating and maintaining equipment issue records for all personnel and other sub-accounts;
* Providing direct administrative support to the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife;
* Record official minutes of meeting and act as custodian of official meeting records, for NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife records;
* Coordinate and provide logistical support for all workshops, including communications, arrangements, workshop materials, facilitation and follow-up.

**5. Relevant Philippine Government Agency Collaboration**

Additional relevant Philippine government agencies involved in the oversight of the broader environmental crime will have a role to play in the operationalization of NAWCC. The purpose is to raise awareness and facilitate communication and cooperation among the different agencies about wildlife crime and find ways for each agency to provide support and assistance to the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife in their respective jurisdictions. Discussions will cover:

* Identification of issues in their agencies which relate to the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife;
* Identification of concerns regarding law enforcement and sharing initiatives or experiences to provide support and assistance to the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife;
* Securing departmental support of the work of the NAWCC / Task Force Wildlife;
* Exchange of information on enforcement policy, procedures and training opportunities;
* Promotion of information sharing among other agencies and government departments.

The relevant agencies may include, but aren’t limited to: Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), National Coast Watch Council, Office of the Special Envoy for Transnational Organized Crime, Manila International Airport Authority, Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the Ombudsman and the Philippine Information Agency.

Points of contact will meet every 6 months or when requested for special circumstances by the NAWCC Chairman/SEC.

1. ASEAN-WEN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network, was launched in December 2005 to facilitate cross-border collaboration in the fight against the region’s illegal wildlife trade. All ten ASEAN nations signed on to this agreement to implement ASEAN-WEN in their respective countries, including a coordination unit and national taskforce to counter wildlife crime both nationally and regionally. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48122#.Vfj5mJ2qqkp [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Wijen, F., Zoeteman, K., Pieters, P., (Author). “A Handbook of Globalisation and Environmental Policy: National Government Interventions in a Global Arena (Elgar Original Reference) Paperback Edition” 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Smith KM, Anthony SJ, Switzer WM, Epstein JH, Seimon T, et al. (2012) Zoonotic Viruses Associated with Illegally Imported Wildlife Products. PLoSONE 7(1): e29505. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0029505  [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Karesh, William B., Cook, Robert A., Bennett, Elizabeth L., and Newcomb, James. "Wildlife Trade and Global Disease: Emergence Emerging Infectious Diseases" www.cdc.gov/eid, Vol. 11, No. 7, July 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jun/24/illegal-wildlife-charcoal-trade-funding-global-terror-groups [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. https://cites.org/eng/cop/14/doc/E14-53-2.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-7)