PHILIPPINES' IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN (NIAP)

FOURTH PROGRESS REPORT
(16 September 2015 - 15 June 2016)

PART A: Synopsis of NIAP implementation

CATEGORY 1: LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

1.1 Registration of ivory and ivory products in compliance with Res. Conf. 10.10 (Rev. 16)

The draft policy (proposed Philippine DENR Administrative Order on the "Registration of Raw and/or Worked Elephant Ivory") developed under this category has undergone a national consultation on 12 November 2015 in La Breza Hotel, Quezon City.

It was endorsed to the Office of the Secretary on 21 December 2015 and deliberated upon by the DENR-Policy Technical Working Group (DENR-PTWG) on 07 June 2016. The DENR-PWTG supports the approval of the draft DAO. The Bureau is finalizing the said DAO to incorporate the PTWG’s inputs.

1.2 Annual re-inventory of government stockpile of ivory

A report on the complete inventory of the Philippine government’s ivory stock was submitted to the CITES Secretariat through a letter addressed to the Secretary-General John E. Scanlon on 23 February 2016. A copy of this report is attached herewith as "Annex 1". No confiscation of elephant ivory took place in the Philippines between 16 September 2016 and 31 May 2016 (cut-off date of this report).

CATEGORY 2: NATIONAL LEVEL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, INVESTIGATION AND NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

2.1 Continuous operation and mobilization of the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (POGI)

A total of eleven (11) enforcement operations were conducted by the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (POGI) and DENR Regional/Field Offices, in collaboration with and assistance of partners from other enforcement agencies. These operations resulted to the confiscation of about 1194 wildlife specimens worth at least PhP2.67M. Ten (10) criminal complaints/cases were filed in various Courts against fifteen (15) suspected law violators.
2.2 Capacity building of personnel/officers of the DENR and partner-agencies/organizations on wildlife law enforcement

The 5th Training of Trainers on the Application of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual of Operations was conducted on 07-11 September 2015 in City State Asturias Hotel, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. The said activity was targeted to be accomplished in the Philippines' National Ivory Action Plan by December 2015. However, the training was conducted ahead of the schedule and was reported in the Philippines' Third Progress Report which covers the accomplishments from 01 July 2014 to 15 September 2015.

CATEGORY 3: International enforcement collaboration

3.1 At least seven (7) major entry points (sea and air ports) to the Philippines continuously monitored against potential ivory smuggling from other countries

In pursuit of Section 33 of Republic Act 9147, otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, the DENR and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) has continuously mobilized and deployed Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Units (WTMUs) in strategic air and sea ports in the country. Presently, eleven (11) airports and thirteen (13) seaports are manned by WTMUs (list provided as Annex 2). For the period 16 September 2015 to 15 June 2016, no incidences of ivory smuggling occurred.

3.2 Participation in international training programs/conferences/meetings

The Philippines participated in the following regional and international training programs/conferences/meetings:

a) Meeting with the Malaysian Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs) on 11 November 2015 (Annex 3, Fig. 1) – The meeting was facilitated by the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB). It was hosted by the Philippines through the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB). The meeting served as venue for Malaysia and the Philippines to exchange information and share each other's practices and experiences in wildlife law enforcement.

b) Workshop on the Wildlife Conservation Experience and Practices in the context of East Asia Summit (EAS). The workshop, held on 14-15 December 2015 in Beijing, China, was in response to the 2014 EAS Declaration on Fighting Against Illegal Wildlife Trade and promises of Item 47 in the state heads meeting result list between China and the United States in 2015. It was co-organized by International Cooperation Department of the State Forestry Administration and Beijing Forestry University. It aimed to promote the improvement of the protection management and the ability of law enforcement and strengthen international cooperation on wildlife
conservation. One (1) representative from the Philippines (DENR-BMB) attended this meeting.

c). ASEAN Regional meetings: the 11th ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) and the 12th ASEAN Experts Group on CITES (AEG-CITES) Meetings, which were held back-to-back last 22-23 March and 24-25 March 2016 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The ASEAN-WEN and AEG-CITES Meetings are regular (annual) events of AMS aimed at: exchanging information on current developments and discussing issues concerning wildlife law enforcement and CITES implementation in each AMS and in the region; and, promoting better coordination and collaboration between and among law enforcement agencies and CITES authorities in the region. Two (2) CITES Enforcement Officers from the DENR-BMB attended these ASEAN meetings.

Among the issues discussed during the 11th ASEAN-WEN Meeting included the strategies to sustain the operation of the ASEAN-WEN Program Coordination Unit (PCU) such as Voluntary Annual Contribution of AMS to the ASEAN-WEN, AMS Staffing Secondment to the ASEAN-WEN PCU, Activities under Special Investigation Group (SIG) with regard to enforcement operation and investigations, Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) at Regional Level, Terms of Reference of the ASEAN-WEN Budget line, and creation of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement.

For the 12th ASEAN Experts Group on CITES (AEG-CITES) Meeting, the discussion revolved on the outcomes of the 66th CITES Standing Committee Meeting, decisions and recommendations of the 28th Animals Committee Meeting and the 22nd Plants Committee Meeting.

The Meeting also took note of the AMS proposals for the upgrading/downgrading/inclusion of certain species of wild fauna and flora in CITES listings for consideration in CoP17. These proposals were as follows:

1. Malaysia’s proposal for the transfer of its population of salt water crocodile (Crocodylus porosus) from Appendix I to Appendix II and to list species of earless monitor lizard (Lanthanotus borneensis) in Appendix I.

2. Thailand’s proposal for the amendment of annotation of Siamese Rosewood (Dalbergia cochinchinensis) in Appendix II from #5 to #4.

3. Viet Nam’s proposals to uplist Chinese Pangolin (Manis pentadactyla), Sunda pangolin (Manis javanica) and Chinese Crocodile lizard (Shinisaurus crocodilurus), from Appendix II to Appendix I and to list Chambered Nautilus (Nautilus pompilius) in Appendix II.
d) Training of Trainers on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species. This training was held in Vistana Kuala Lumpur Titiwangsa, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 15-18 March 2016. It was conducted under the framework of the East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABI), and generously funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan. The workshop aimed to build the capacity of the participants from ASEAN countries on CITES and its rules and regulations, wildlife trade, and identification of amphibians, reptiles and plants.

**CATEGORY 4: Awareness and education**

**4.1 Conduct of seminars on national and international policies governing ivory for authorities at major air and sea ports**

In continuation of the DENR-BMB's "Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade" campaign, targeting authorities in major air and sea ports in the country, an "Orientation-Seminar on National and International Policies on Ivory and Wildlife Trade" was conducted on 05 May 2016 in Bacolod City, primarily for the officers/staff of government agencies and private entities manning/operating at the Bacolod-Silay International Airport, Negros Occidental. The seminar was conducted in coordination with the DENR Region 18 (Negros Island Region). A total of 23 representatives from various offices including international courier service providers in said international airport attended the said seminar (Annex 4, Fig.2).

Four (4) more major ports are to be covered by the campaign within the remaining months of the year. These are the Laguindingan Airport in Misamis Oriental on June 28, 2016; General Santos City Airport in South Cotabato on July 12, 2016; Zamboanga International Airport in Zamboanga City on August 11, 2016; and, Port of Glan in Sarangani on July 14, 2016.

The orientation-seminars aimed to enhance knowledge of, and to generate support from, other government agencies and the civil society in implementing measures to reduce illegal trade in elephant ivory and other wildlife resources.

**4.2 Production and dissemination of information and educational materials**

a) To strengthen the DENR-BMB's "Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade" campaign, the Bureau produced 60 pieces of tarpaulins (photo of sample tarsps attached as Annex 5, Fig. 3) featuring Philippine endemic wildlife species and our policies governing the conservation and protection of wildlife. The tarpaulins are intended for distribution and display at ten (10) strategic airports/seaports in the country. A set (6 pieces) of said tarpaulins were already distributed to the DENR-Negros Island Region for display at Bacolod-Silay International Airport.

Other IEC materials that were produced are the "Bawal Posters" emphasizing the prohibition of the collection, possession, killing, and trade
of threatened wildlife species and the "Flying Fox Poster" to promote the conservation of flying fox species in the country (photo of sample posters attached as Annex 6, Fig. 4). Each poster was printed in 2,000 copies. The Bureau has started distributing copies of the posters to DENR-Regional and Field Offices in seaport for public awareness campaign activities.

b) The Philippines again joined the global community in celebrating the 3rd World Wildlife Day last 03 March 2016. The DENR through the BMB and the DENR-Regional Offices simultaneously conducted various wildlife-related activities. The national celebration was held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, the highlights of which included the following:

b.1 Unveiling of the Elephant Monumental Sculpture - this is a follow-up activity to the Philippine destruction (crushing and burning) of more than four tons of the government's stockpile of illegal elephant ivory in June 2013. The structure is partly made of ash remains of the burned ivory. The sculpture aims to serve as a reminder of such bold step taken by the Philippines to fight illegal ivory trade; of the thousands of elephants that have been killed for their priceless ivory for illicit trade; and, of the need for cohesive actions among nations to ensure the continued existence of elephants throughout their range. The sculpture solidifies the country's commitment in condemning illegal ivory trade or any forms of illegal wildlife trade (Annex 7, Fig. 5).

b.2 Conferment of the 3rd Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards – In a formal awarding ceremony (Annex 8, Fig. 6), 95 individuals from 16 different government offices, local government units and non-government organizations were recognized for their invaluable contributions in combatting illegal wildlife trade, either through actual law enforcement, prosecution and speedy resolution of criminal cases against wildlife law violators, or continuous assistance in pursuing public education and capacity building programs in support to wildlife law enforcement for the past twelve months. The ceremony acknowledged the vital contributions of key informants and netizens who fought for wildlife's welfare through their online reporting of wildlife-related crimes - which had been key in case-building, investigation and enforcement work of the DENR-Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (POGI) – but could not be publicly conferred with the award to safeguard their anonymity.

b.3 1st Wildlife Quiz Bee – This contest aimed to encourage the students to give particular attention to current developments on wildlife, both nationally and internationally, and to raise awareness and appreciation of the richness, importance, and conservation needs of wildlife resources. Twenty-five (25) Grade 9 students from different public schools in the National Capital Region (NCR) participated in the 1st Wildlife Quiz Bee Contest (Annex 9, Fig. 7) wherein they were challenged with questions about wildlife. It also served as an opportunity for them to hone their knowledge and, at the same time, learn the values associated with winning and losing in a competition.
### PART B: Summary evaluation of actions

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY/PILLAR</th>
<th>PROGRESS RATING</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Substantially achieved</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CATEGORY 1:</strong> Legislation and Regulation</td>
<td>1.2 Annual re-inventory of government stockpile of ivory</td>
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<td><strong>CATEGORY 2:</strong> National Level Enforcement Actions, Investigation and National Inter-Agency Coordination</td>
<td>2.1 Continuous operation and mobilization of the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory (POGI) and Illegal Wildlife Trade</td>
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<td><strong>CATEGORY 3:</strong> International enforcement collaboration</td>
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<td>CATEGORY 4: Awareness and education</td>
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**PART C: Detailed evaluation of actions**

**CATEGORY 1: LEGISLATION AND REGULATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1 Registration of ivory and ivory products in compliance with Res. Conf. 10.10 (Rev. 16)</th>
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- The draft policy developed under this category (i.e. proposed DENR Administrative Order “Registration of Raw and/or Worked Elephant Ivory”) has undergone a national consultation workshop on 12 November 2015 in La Breza Hotel, Quezon City. This was participated in by representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Policy and Technical Working Group (PTWG), DENR Legal Office, DENR-Regions NCR, 3, 4A and 4B and Birds International, Inc. The comments and recommendations raised during the consultation were incorporated in the above-cited draft policy and was endorsed for consideration and approval by the DENR-Secretary on 21 December 2015.
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<tr>
<th>1.2 Annual re-inventory of government stockpile of ivory</th>
<th>Substantially achieved</th>
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<td>• On June 7, 2016, the proposed DAO was deliberated upon by the DENR-PTWG, which expressed full support to the approval of the draft DAO. The DENR-BMB is currently finalizing the said DAO to incorporate the Group’s comments/recommendations.</td>
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<th>CATEGORY 2: NATIONAL LEVEL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, INVESTIGATION AND NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.1 Continuous operation and mobilization of the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory (POGI) and Illegal Wildlife Trade</td>
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<td>• The Philippines has submitted its complete inventory of the government-held stockpile of elephant ivory as of January 2016 to the Secretary-General through the BMB letter dated 23 February 2016 in compliance with CITES Notification No. 2015-005, “Elephant ivory stocks: marking, inventories and security”. No incidences of confiscation or seizure of elephant ivory was recorded in the country from 16 September 2015 to 15 June 2016.</td>
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| 2.2 Capacity building of personnel/officers of the DENR and partner-agencies/organizations on wildlife law enforcement | Substantially achieved |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| • A total of eleven (11) enforcement operations were conducted by the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (POGI) and DENR Regional/Field Offices, in collaboration with and assistance of partners from other enforcement agencies. These operations resulted to the confiscation of about 1194 wildlife specimens worth at least PhP2.67M. Ten (10) criminal complaints/cases have been filed in various Courts against fifteen (15) suspected law violators. |

| The 5th Training of Trainers on the Application of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual of Operations was conducted on 07-11 September 2015 in Citystate Astrias Hotel, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. The said activity was targeted to be accomplished in the Philippines’ National Ivory Action Plan by December 2015. However, the training |
was conducted ahead of the schedule and was reported in the Philippines' Third Progress Report which covers the accomplishments from 01 July 2014 to 15 September 2015.

After conducting the five (5) "Training of Trainers on the Application of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual of Operations" from 2011-2015, this Bureau will be holding the "First Wildlife Enforcement Summit" in November 2016. The Summit will serve as venue to assess the contributions of the trained Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs) in preventing/addressing wildlife poaching and trafficking in their respective areas, exchange/share best enforcement practices and lessons learned; and, enhance their knowledge on law enforcement especially with regards to national & international developments.

**CATEGORY 3: International enforcement collaboration**

| 3.1 At least seven (7) major entry points (sea and air ports) to the Philippines continuously monitored against potential ivory smuggling from other countries | Substantially achieved | In pursuit of Section 33 of Republic Act 9147, otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, the DENR has continuously mobilized and deployed Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Units (WTMUs) in strategic air and sea ports in the country. Presently, eleven (11) airports and thirteen (13) seaports are manned by WTMUs. For the period 16 September 2015 to 15 June 2016, no incidences of ivory smuggling occurred. |

| 3.2 Participation in international training programs/ conferences/meetings | Substantially achieved | The Philippines organized/participated in the following regional and international training programs/conferences/meetings: |

- Meeting with the Malaysian Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs) held on November 11, 2015 - The Biodiversity Management Bureau hosted and co-organized the meeting with the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB). It was held at BMB Conference Room, Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife
Center, North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City. It was a response to the request of Malaysian to meet with the Philippine Wildlife Enforcement Officers to exchange information and learn for each other's practices and experiences on wildlife law enforcement.

The BMB shared the Philippines experiences, information and data on the wildlife law enforcement in the Philippines from 2010-2015. Thereafter, the Malaysian WEOs, Ms. Nosrat Ravichandran, Director of Consultancy Division and Mr. Mohamad Hafid Rohani, Kedah State Wildlife Director of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Malaysia, and partners from the enforcement agencies of the Philippines namely, the Philippine National Police-National Capital Region Police Office, PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and Bureau of Customs (BOC) each shared their roles, experiences, and best practices on wildlife law enforcement. Additionally, three (3) researchers from the University of the Philippines, Diliman-Institute of Biology gave a presentation on DNA profiling of plants and animals in relation to wildlife law enforcement in the country.

The delegates from Malaysian informed the meeting that the strength of their enforcement lies in their advance forensic technology. In fact, their facility has been used by other Malaysian law enforcement bodies to conduct laboratory tests for investigative purposes. On the Philippine side, the current multi-agency collaboration, the involvement
and the deputation of volunteers as WEOs, active social media subscribers, the primary source of information regarding illegal activities have notably worked to the advantage of Philippine wildlife law enforcement.

- Workshop on the Wildlife Conservation Experience and Practices in the context of the East Asia Summit (EAS) held on 14-15 December 2015 at Beijing. The workshop was co-organized by the International Cooperation Department of the State Forestry Administration and Beijing Forestry University in Beijing. The objective of the workshop was to promote the improvement of the protection management and the ability of law enforcement and strengthen international cooperation on wildlife conservation.

- 11th ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) and 12th ASEAN Experts Group on CITES (AEG-CITES) Meetings which were held back-to-back last 22-23 March and 24-25 March 2016 in Siem Reap, Cambodia - The ASEAN-WEN and AEG-CITES Meetings are regular (annual) events of AMS aimed at: exchanging information on current developments and discussing issues concerning wildlife law enforcement and CITES implementation in each AMS and in the region; and, promoting better coordination and collaboration between and among law enforcement agencies and CITES authorities in the region.

Highlights of the 11th ASEAN-WEN Meeting are as follows:

Among the issues discussed during the 11th ASEAN-WEN Meeting
included the strategies to sustain the operation of the ASEAN-WEN Program Coordination Unit (PCU) such as Voluntary Annual Contribution of AMS to the ASEAN-WEN, AMS Staffing Secondment to the ASEAN-WEN PCU, Activities under Special Investigation Group (SIG) with regard to enforcement operation and investigations, Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) at Regional Level, Terms of Reference of the ASEAN-WEN Budget line, and creation of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement.

1. Updates on Conferment of Legal Personality to ASEAN-WEN by Thailand as a long-term strategy:

a. The Meeting recalled the decision made at the 10th ASEAN-WEN to support Thailand in pursuing conferment of legal personality to ASEAN-WEN PCU following Thailand’s National Process. The Meeting also recalled that the support from AMS will be able to initiate the relevant internal processes in Thailand to confer legal personality to the ASEAN-WEN/PCU following a clear recommendation from AMAF.

b. The Meeting noted that the establishment of legal personality of ASEAN WEN-PCU needs cabinet approval. Thailand informed the Meeting that the process may take 3-5 years. The Meeting noted that Thailand will continue working on ASEAN-WEN PCU legal personality and will report to the next meeting of the AWG CITES and Wildlife Enforcement in Indonesia. The Meeting viewed that with current
modality of ASEAN-WEN PCU, Thailand can move forward with legal personality of ASEAN-WEN PCU to support initiatives relevant to wildlife enforcement.

2. Sustainability of ASEAN-WEN

a. The Meeting noted the options on sustainability strategies for ASEAN-WEN, which include i) annual/voluntary contributions for the ASEAN-WEN Member States (AMS); ii) AMS secondment; and iii) in-kind contributions from AMS to support the ASEAN-WEN

b. The Meeting viewed that the secondment of officer is not possible at this point due to inadequacy of manpower resources in AMS. AMS may organize relevant activities on ASEAN-WEN as in-kind contribution. Concerning the annual/voluntary contribution, AMS viewed that it is challenging taking into consideration the national processes.

3. Discussion on Term of Reference for the establishment of the ASEAN-WEN Budget Line

a. During the 10th ASEAN-WEN Meeting, AMS agreed in principle to move forward with the establishment of the ASEAN-WEN Budget line and requested the ASEAN Secretariat to develop the draft Term of Reference (ToR) of the ASEAN-WEN Budget line for ad-referendum decision by AMS

b. The Meeting noted that ASEAN Secretariat has prepared a draft ToR, and circulated to AMS in
June 2015. ASec has received input to the draft ToR from Philippines and Thailand.

c. The Meeting viewed that there is a need to have more time to discuss internally the draft ToR. It was agreed that AMS who have not submitted their comments and inputs on the draft ToR, shall provide to ASEAN Secretariat for consolidation within one month after the Meeting. The Meeting noted that an Agreement among AMS might be needed as formal mean for facilitate contribution and utilization of the budget line.

Highlights of the 12th ASEAN Experts Group on CITES (AEG-CITES) are as follows:

1. Indonesia, Asia’s representative to the CITES Standing Committee (SC) updated the body regarding the outcomes of SC 66. The Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties, at its 17th meeting, a draft decision requesting the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), subject to external funding, to develop guidelines that could be used to promote adequate integrity policies, and assist Parties to mitigate the risks of corruption in the trade chain as it relates to CITES-listed specimens. The Standing Committee also encouraged all Parties to increasingly draw upon INTERPOL notices as a tool to bring those involved in illegal trafficking in wildlife to justice. The Standing Committee requested all Parties to encourage authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement to join the ENVIRONET restricted forum.
2. Indonesia also reported on behalf of the member of CITES Animals Committee the outcome and recommendations of the twenty-eight meeting of the Animals Committee (AC-28). AC-28 was held in Tel Aviv, Israel. The AC-28 discussed conservation and management of sharks, snake trade and its conservation management (*Serpentes* spp.), review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix-II species.

3. The Philippines presented the outcomes of the 22nd Meeting of the CITES Plants Committee held on 19-23 October 2015 in Georgia. Preliminary results of the timber trade study indicate that Phase 1 of the study—a compilation and analysis of official trade data—has been completed and Phase 2 of the study—compilation and analysis of Parties' responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2014/053—is still on-going. The primary source of information for Phase 1 of the study is commodity trade data that are based on customs declarations collected by national customs officials and compiled by international organizations such as the United Nations Statistics Division (UN-Comtrade). Phase 1 of the timber trade study provides a structure for examining trade in CITES-listed species in a larger context, that is, range State exports of all wood products made from those species. The study documents the scale and complexity of the wood products exports of the range States and demonstrates that there is considerable potential to use CITES-listed tree species in value-added processing. The study also highlights trends in specific range States and
product groups that require further examination.

4. The Meeting also took note of the AMS proposals for the upgrading/downgrading/inclusion of certain species of wild fauna and fauna in CITES listings. These proposals were as follows:

a. Malaysia’s proposal for the transfer of its population of salt water crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) from Appendix I to Appendix II and to list species of earless monitor lizard (*Lanthanotus borneensis*) in Appendix I.

b. Thailand’s proposal for the amendment of annotation of Siamese Rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*) in Appendix II from #5 to #4.

c. Viet Nam’s proposals to uplist Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*), Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and Chinese Crocodile lizard (*Shinisaurus crocodilurus*), from Appendix II to Appendix I and to list Chambered Nautilus (*Nautilus pompilius*) in Appendix II.

- Training of Trainers on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species held in Vistana Kuala Lumpur Titiwangsa, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 15-18 March 2016 - The four-day capacity building activity was conducted under the framework of the East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII), and generously funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan. It was participated in by 28 representatives from ASEAN countries namely: Brunei
Darrusalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and Philippines. The workshop aimed to build the capacity of the ASEAN countries on CITES and its rules and regulations, wildlife trade, and identification of amphibians, reptiles and plants. Each participating country presented a report relative to the implementation of CITES in their country.

**CATEGORY 4: Awareness and education**

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<th>4.1 Conduct of seminars on national and international policies governing ivory for authorities at major air and sea ports</th>
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- In continuation of the DENR-BMB's "Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade" campaign, targeting authorities in major air and sea ports in the country, an "Orientation-Seminar on National and International Policies on Ivory and Wildlife Trade" was conducted on 05 May 2016 in Bacolod City, primarily for the officers/staff of government agencies and private entities manning/operating at the Bacolod-Silay International Airport, Negros Occidental. The seminar was conducted in coordination with the DENR Region 18 (Negros Island Region). A total of 23 representatives from various offices including international courier service providers in said international airport attended the said seminar (Annex 4, Fig.2).

Four (4) more major ports are to be covered by the campaign within the remaining months of the year. These are the Laguindingan Airport in Misamis Oriental on June 28, 2016; General Santos City Airport in South Cotabato on July 12, 2016; Zamboanga International Airport in Zamboanga City on August 11, 2016; and, Port of Glan in Sarangani on July 14, 2016.
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<th>4.2 Production and dissemination of information and educational materials</th>
<th><strong>Substantially achieved</strong></th>
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<td>The orientation-seminars aimed to enhance knowledge of, and to generate support from, other government agencies and the civil society in implementing measures to reduce illegal trade in elephant ivory and other wildlife resources.</td>
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- To supplement and compliment the orientation-seminars under the "Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade" campaign program, the BMB produced 60 pieces of tarpaulins (photo of sample tarp attached as Annex 2, Fig. 3) featuring Philippine endemic wildlife species and our policies governing the conservation and protection of wildlife. The tarpaulins will be installed for display in ten (10) strategic airports/seaports in the country. Six of the tarpaulins have been distributed to the DENR. Negros Island Region for display at Silay-Bacolod International Airport.

The Bureau also produced 2,000 copies of posters featuring threatened wildlife species threatened) and 2,000 copies of posters about flying foxes. The poster was designed by the Filipinos for Flying Foxes, a coalition of early-career biologists, students and non-profit organizations (Bat Count Philippines, Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation and Mabuwaya Foundation). It aims to promote the conservation of large flying foxes in the Philippines by building the local capacity and interest necessary to implement long-term conservation management of flying fox species.

The DENR-BMB has started distributing copies of the posters to DENR-Regional/Field Offices for their dissemination to the local communities, including government units and academe.
• The Philippines again joined the global community in celebrating the 3rd World Wildlife Day last 03 March 2016. The highlights of the celebration were:

a) Unveiling of the Elephant Monumental Sculpture. This is a follow-up activity to the Philippine destruction (crushing and burning) of more than four tons of the government's stockpile of illegal elephant ivory in June 2013. The structure is partly made of ash remains of the burned ivory. The sculpture aims to serve as a reminder of such bold step taken by the Philippines to fight illegal ivory trade; of the thousands of elephants that have been killed for their priceless ivory for illicit trade; and, of the need for cohesive actions among nations to ensure the continued existence of elephants throughout their range.

b) Conferment of the 3rd Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards – The DENR through the BMB and the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade started giving awards to deserving enforcement partners for government agencies, private individuals, and the civil society in 2013. For this year, 95 individuals from 16 different government offices, local government units and non-government organizations were recognized for their invaluable contributions in combatting illegal wildlife trade, either through actual law enforcement, prosecution and speedy resolution of criminal cases against wildlife law violators, or continuous assistance in pursuing public education and capacity building programs in support to wildlife law enforcement for the past twelve months.
c) 1st Wildlife Quiz Bee. This is both a knowledge-based competition and learning event, which aimed to encourage the target students to give attention to current developments on wildlife, both nationally and internationally, and to raise awareness and appreciation of the richness, importance, status and conservation of the Philippine Wildlife among the student-youth, their advisers and the general public. This first competition was designed for public high school students (Grade 9) at the National Capital Region (NCR). Twenty-five (25) Grade 9 students from different public schools in NCR participated in the 1st Wildlife Quiz Bee Contest wherein they were challenged with questions about wildlife.
Interesting facts about flying fox:

There are 137 species of megabats, or Old World fruit bats (Pteropodidae). The Philippines is home to 25 of these species, half of which (12 species) are found only in the Philippines and nowhere else in the world.

Flying foxes are an important part of the natural ecosystems of the Philippines for the unique ecological roles they play in the forests. These bats pollinate the flowers of forest trees and disperse seeds from forest flutters, and for many forest trees, they are essential for seed regeneration. Because flying foxes fly up to 90 km each night while foraging, they are the ultimate foresters, pollinating trees and planting seeds throughout the forest. Without flying foxes, many trees would be missing from Philippine forests, and so would the many other species that depend on those trees.