

Wildlife Health in the Philippines



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for OIE Members in Southeast Asia*

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Policies relating to wildlife

- Republic Act No. 9147 - “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act,” approved on July 30, 2001
 - Jointly being implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
- Malacañang AO 10, s.2011: Creation of the Philippine Inter-Agency Task Force on Zoonoses
 - Jointly being implemented by the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment and Natural Resources

**Conceptual Framework on Wildlife Disease Surveillance - working document for the disease surveillance being implemented by the BMB since 2018*



Ministerial responsibilities

- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is the primary agency responsible for the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources.

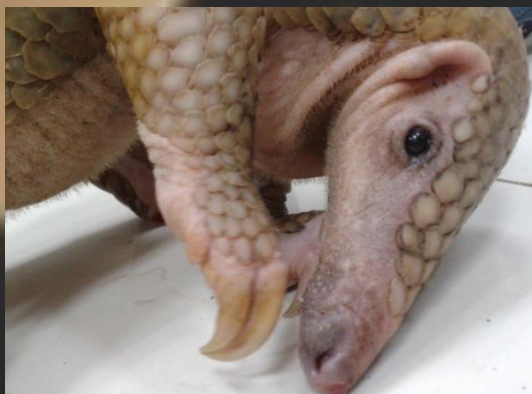
The Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) is a line bureau under the DENR

- The mandates of the Biodiversity Management Bureau include establishing and managing protected areas, conserving wildlife, caves and cave resources, promoting and institutionalizing ecotourism, and managing coastal biodiversity and wetlands ecosystems



Activities relating to wildlife

- *Activities performed by Veterinary Services relating to wildlife*
 - Care for rescued, confiscated, abandoned wildlife in wildlife rescue centers
 - Surveillance on avian influenza, Newcastle disease, Ebola reston
- *Other activities performed in the country relating to wildlife health*
 - Wildlife disease surveillance conducted by academe, with proper permits from the authorities



Disease reporting

Year	Disease	Test type	Number of animals tested	Results
2018	Avian Influenza, Newcastle disease, Infectious laryngotracheitis	RT-PCR; ELISA	157 wild birds (46 species)	Negative
2019	Avian Influenza	RT-PCR	60 birds (22 species)	Negative
	Ebola-Reston	RT-PCR; ELISA	83 bats (5 species)	Negative

Note: these are samples collected from wild animals in their natural habitat



One Health Activities

- The creation of the Philippine Inter-Agency Committee on Zoonosis (PhiICZ) is the country's mechanism to operationalize One Health
 - The wildlife sector is represented by the DENR-BMB
 - A Joint Department Administrative Order to Operationalize the PhiICZ was signed in 2020 where roles and responsibilities of each Department is defined
- Active and passive surveillance of zoonotic diseases is jointly conducted by the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) and the Department of Health
- Passive surveillance of zoonotic diseases is conducted by the DENR-BMB on wildlife
 - Surveillance is similarly being conducted in several bird sanctuaries by DENR Field Offices in coordination with Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (RADDL)



One Health Activities

- The developed Avian Influenza Protection Plan by the DA-BAI includes provisions on dealing with wild birds
 - A migratory bird sanctuary within the metro has developed a local Avian Influenza Preparedness Plan
- DENR has designated Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs) who work on the prevention and control of illegal wildlife trade
 - WEOs coordinate with RADDL for the conduct of health assessments on confiscated animals
- Wildlife Tourism Advisories are issued as necessary, i.e. bird watching, cave spelunking



Future activities

In coordination and collaboration with the BAI, academe and other agencies,

- Conduct capacity-building of field staff on zoonosis, proper response/s to wildlife mortalities and specimen collection
- Continue conduct of disease surveillance in wildlife
- Expand awareness campaigns on wildlife conservation – to include concept of disease transmission especially in the domestic/livestock and wildlife interface

