

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 248**



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**INTRODUCED BY**  
**HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO**  
**CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION,**  
**INTO THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND**  
**REVIEW OF RELEVANT EXISTING LAWS**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is rich in flora and fauna and is home to a wide variety of wildlife found only here and nowhere else in the world. In fact, 47 percent of terrestrial animals are endemic to the Philippines including but not limited to the Philippine Pond Turtle, Palawan Pangolin, Blue Naped Parrot, Monitor Lizard, Philippine Slow Loris, Philippine Cockatoo, Visayan Tarictic Hornbill, Brahminy Kite, Philippine Hanging Parrot.

**WHEREAS**, illegal wildlife trade has a significant economic, environment, security and social impacts detrimental to the Philippines and the world.

**WHEREAS**, illegal wildlife trade has become a highly organised, sophisticated criminal activity in a global scale using the same routes as criminals involved in tax evasion, corruption, money laundering and violent crime that takes resources away from government revenues.

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines has a complex role in the illegal trade in wildlife, not only as a source of endemic and endangered species but a destination and transit point for trafficked animals and their parts. Just recently, agents of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested two men for illegal possession and sale of wildlife. The agents also dicovered birds crammed in crates and cages as well as 450 animals, including different species of endangered birds, lizards and mammals poached from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea worth P50 million in the local market that could increase five times more in the underground and black markets.

**WHEREAS**, illegal wildlife trade is a global multi-billion dollar industry wherein the Philippines is losing P50 billion a year according to Theresa Mundita Lim, executive director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity and head of DENR's

Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB). According to DENR-BMB, the value of confiscated wildlife based on the selling price in the market reached P184.9 million from 2013 to 2018. Unfortunately, this is only a dearth of its actual monetary value because of its environmental impact particularly in terms of biodiversity.

**WHEREAS**, illegal trade of wildlife continues to increase despite the enactment of the following laws in order to address the protection of wildlife and its illegal trade, Republic Act No. 9147, otherwise known as “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act”, Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as “An Act Providing for the Establishment and Management of National Integrated Protected Areas System Defining its Scope and Coverage, and for Other Purposes”, Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as “The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997”, Republic Act No. 7611, otherwise known as “The Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan and the Development of Ecotourism in the Philippines”, Republic Act No. 9072 otherwise known as “National Caves and Caves Resources Management and Protection Act”, Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as “An Act to Promote Animal Welfare in the Philippines” and Act No. 3815, otherwise known as “The Revised Penal Code”.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the House of Representatives directing the Committee on Natural Resources conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the illegal wildlife trade and a review of relevant existing laws.

**Adopted,**



**HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA, JR.**  
Representative  
Lone District of the City of Dasmariñas