

**[DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2010-16,
June 17, 2010]**

**ESTABLISHING THE "ADOPT-A-WILDLIFE SPECIES PROGRAM"
AND PROVIDING THE GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE
IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF**

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. No. 9147, otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, particularly on its avowed policy to conserve and protect wildlife species and their habitats to promote ecological balance and enhance biological diversity, and in order to provide additional avenues for the Local Governmental Units (LGUs), the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Peoples' Organizations (POs), civil society groups and other interested individuals to participate in the governments' campaign to conserve biodiversity and prevent species extinction, the Adopt-A-Wildlife Species (AAWS) Program is hereby established and the following implementing guidelines are hereby promulgated for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned.

Section 1. Title

This Administrative Order shall be known as the "Adopt-a-Wildlife Species programs of the DENR" and hereinafter referred to as the "AAWS Programs" or the "Program".

Section 2. Scope of Application

This Order applies to the Implementation of the AAWS Program in all terrestrial and wetland areas of the country specially involving wildlife species under the jurisdiction of the DENR as enumerated in the herein attached Program's List of Priority Threatened Species, which forms and integral part of this Order as ***Annex "A"***. The list is based on the IUCN Red List, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) list, and National Lists of Threatened Species covered by duly issued Administrative Orders.

The Program's list of priority threatened species shall be updated as necessary to include other wildlife species to be covered by Administrative Order/s that may hereafter be promulgated.

Section 3. Objectives

The Program aims to:

- a. Ensure the perpetuity of threatened species and protection of their habitats in order to achieve downgrading of category or eventual removal from the threatened list;
- b. Effectively conserve and protect threatened wildlife species and their habitats through the active participation of stakeholders to help promote

biodiversity conservation and prevent species extinction;

c. Provide opportunities to private entities and individuals to assist the government in the enforcement of the Wildlife Act; and

d. Raise the level of awareness and stimulate public action in protecting the environment and conserving the country's biological resources.

Section 4. Definition of Terms

As used in this Order, the following terms shall mean:

4.1 "*Adopt-a-Wildlife Species Program*" (AAWS Program) – a Program designed to strengthen partnership between the government and the private sector *in-situ* conservation of wildlife and recognize such contribution thru tax incentives as prescribed under Section 34 of RA 9147.

4.2 Adopting Entity/Individual – a private individual or entity that provides resources to support, or directly implement a wildlife conservation project or activity through the AAWS Program."

4.3 Certificate of Adoption – A document issued to an Adopting Entity/Individual by the DENR upon approval of the Memorandum of Agreement (MAO) entered into by and between said parties for *in-situ conservation* of a threatened wildlife species selected by the Adopting Entity/Individual under the AAWS Program. The document shall include the specific species adopted, specific location/habitat, project cost and duration.

4.4 Implementer – refers to a local agency, organization or entity duly established or registered under the law and commissioned by, or to whom a contribution has been made by, an Adopting Entity/Individual to directly implement wildlife conservation activities covered by the AAWS Program.

4.5 National Wildlife Management Committee (NWMC) – refers to the Committee at the national level created by the DENR in accordance with Section 3 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2004-55 to provide technical and scientific advice to the agency in the implementation of the Program.

4.6 Regional Wildlife Management Committee (RWMC) – refers to the Committee created by the DENR Regional Offices in accordance with Section 3 of DAO 2004-55 to provide technical assistance and scientific advice in the implementation of the Program at the regional/field level.

Section 5. General Provisions/Guiding Principles

The Adopt-A-Wildlife Species Program shall be guided by the following provisions/principles:

5.1 Adoption of a wildlife species shall require the execution of an agreement specifically referred to herein as Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), by and between or among the DENR, through PAWB or concerned DENR Regional Office (see Section 7), the Adopting Entity/Individual, and/or the Implementer;

5.2 In availing of the AAWS Program, the Adopting Entity/Individual may support conservation projects through the following options:

- a. Directly implement wildlife conservation project under the AAWS Programs;
- b. Provide financial resources for, and commission to an Implementer, the implementation of its chosen conservation project; or
- c. Make direct financial contribution to an existing wildlife species conservation program managed or duly recognized by the DENR, or to an entirely new conservation project that may qualify under the AAWS program.

5.3 Conservation projects under the AAWS Programs shall be accordance with the Framework for the Conservation of Philippine Threatened Species hereto attached as "**Annex B**" * and which forms part of this Order;

5.4 Specific projects of the Program may form part of existing Species Conservation Program/Plan or be an entirely new *in-situ conservation* project that may include a range of activities such as, but not limited to, research and monitoring, information, education and communication; habitat restoration; and enforcement as may be approved by the government agency concerned; and

5.5 The program shall give priority to the species listed in Annex A of this Order for adoption. However, the Adopting Entity/Individual may, for special valid reasons, adopt non-threatened species upon approval of the DENR, through the PAWB or concerned DENR Regional Office.

Section 6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 Lead DENR Offices- the PAWB and the DENR Regional Offices shall be responsible for the implementation of this Order. As such, the PAWB Director and the concerned Regional Executive Directors shall be accountable for the performance of the following functions and responsibilities:

- a. Exercise supervision over AAWS projects being implemented with their respective areas of responsibility;
- b. Promote and encourage private and business sectors to support the Programs, including public education, information dissemination and awareness campaigns;
- c. Monitor and make available annual status report on the implementation of the AAWs projects within their respective