



PAMBANSANG PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
(National Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)
139 25th Street Port Area
Manila 1018

NHQ-PCG/ CGVS

17 April 2023

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES
NUMBER.....05-23

**GUIDELINES ON PROPER HANDLING OF CONFISCATED ILLEGALLY
TRANSPORTED WILDLIFE ANIMALS**

I. REFERENCES:

- A. Republic Act 9993 – Philippine Coast Guard Law of 2009 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
- B. Republic Act 9147 – An Act providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats, Appropriating Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes.
- C. House Bill No 9833 – An Act Strengthening the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Mechanism in the Philippines, Amending for this Purpose R.A. No. 9147, otherwise known as the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act”, Providing Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes.
- D. DA Administrative Order No 02 Series of 2002 – Rules and Regulations on the Transport of Animals by Sea.
- E. DENR AO No 36 Series of 1991 – Guidelines Governing the Confiscation, Seizure and Disposition of Wildlife Flora and Fauna Illegally Collected, Gathered, Acquired, Transported and Imported Including Paraphernalia.
- F. DENR Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual of Operations, Book 2 Protocol on Wildlife Law Enforcement.
- G. Guidelines for the safe handling of wildlife and wildlife products during counter-wildlife trafficking enforcement operations in Asia.

II. PURPOSE:

This SOP prescribes the policies and procedures concerning the proper handling of confiscated illegally transported wildlife animals as well as provides handy and systematic guidelines readily available and accessible reference to PCG personnel in dealing with illegally transported wildlife animals.

III. SCOPE:

This SOP pertains only to wildlife animals that were transported without the necessary permits as required by pertinent laws, rules and regulations and were confiscated by the PCG personnel during the conduct of maritime safety, maritime security and law enforcement operations.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

- a. **Endangered** - little survival in the wild if causative factors persist.
- b. **Illegally Transported Wildlife Animals** – illegal transportation of wildlife animals that are not covered by an appropriate permit.
- c. **Quarantine Officer (QO)** - inspect incoming animals, plants and by-products to ensure they comply with laws and regulations to prevent the spread of alien pests and diseases.
- d. **Vulnerable** - under threat from adverse factors throughout its range. Likely to be endangered in the future.
- e. **Wildlife Animals** - animals that live independently of people, in natural conditions.
- f. **Wildlife Enforcement Officer (WEO)** – enforce all laws, but more specifically enforce laws regarding wildlife and natural resources.
- g. **Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (WTMU)** - Customs officers and/or other authorized government representatives assigned at air or seaports who may have intercepted wildlife commodities in the discharge of their official functions shall, prior to further disposition thereof, secure a clearance from the wildlife traffic-monitoring unit assigned in the area.

V. POLICY:

- a. To enforce and promote the State policy on the protection and conservation of wildlife animals which are considered vulnerable, threatened, endangered and critically endangered species due to adverse factors including but not limited to over-collection and unregulated use, culture or breeding.
- b. To effectively assist the DENR and other concerned agencies in the enforcement of wildlife laws, rules and regulations including other pertinent issuances.

VI. PROCEDURES:

- a. Proper handling procedures of confiscated illegally transported wildlife animals.

1. Turtles

(Philippine forest, Southeast Asian box turtle, Asian leaf turtle)

Semi-aquatic that lives in freshwater.



- Pick up the turtle with both hands, one hand on each side for small turtles. For large sea turtles should be handled by two or more people. Firmly grasp the turtle's shell with one hand, just at the back of the head, and the other hand from the backside of the shell along the dorsal fin.
- Do not pick up turtles by the tails.
- Do not twist or turn around a turtle very quickly and turn side over side.
- Avoid the turtle keeping on its back.
- Provide a spacious container/tank with water that is deep enough for the turtle to swim and a mesh cover to prevent it from escaping.
- Place it outside under the sun to regulate their internal body temperature.
- Feed turtles with animal products, vegetables and fruits.

2. Pangolins

- Use medical gloves when handling pangolins.
- Pangolins must be placed in a closed and safe room to enable them not to escape and hurt themselves.
- Gently place the pangolins in a spacious wooden box with good ventilation.
- Provide food (termites, ants and frozen ant eggs) and water.

3. Exotic Birds

- Exotic birds must be handled with the use of a towel or leather gloves.
- Provide a spacious cage for the exotic bird and placed it in a quiet room with fruits, sunflower seeds, shelled peanuts and clean drinking water.
- Keep it away from direct sunlight.

4. Tarsiers

- Avoid too much handling on tarsier.
- Place it in a quiet, cool and well-ventilated room.
- Minimize noises and direct contact to tarsiers.
- Provide food (spiders, beetles, termites, cicada, crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches) and clean drinking water.

b. Transfer of Custody/Proper Turn-over

Once the wildlife animals are safe and secured following the guidelines prescribed herein, the handling personnel shall turn-over the subject wildlife animals to the nearest city or municipal environment and

natural resources office for proper disposition. Further, the handling personnel shall accomplish a turn-over report properly identifying the seized/confiscated wildlife animals and affixing both the signatures of the handling personnel and the recipient MENRO/CENRO. (See Annex)

VII. DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. CG Station/Sub-Station Commander

1. Following the confiscation of illegally transported wildlife animals, the Coast Guard Station/Sub-Station Commanders shall create a team of trained wildlife animal handlers that will provide proper care to seized/captured animals.
2. The team of trained wildlife animal handlers will identify what type of species, health status and to provide proper care with caution as to protect the handlers from harm induced by nervous and anxious wildlife animals.
3. The Coast Guard Station/Sub-Station Commanders shall monitor and supervise the implementation of this SOP.
4. Ensure that the confiscated or seized wildlife animals are kept in initial custody before turning it over to the nearest MENRO/CENRO.
5. Teams shall ensure proper filing of records or reports aboard Coast Guard Station/Sub-Stations.

b. Commanding Officer, Field Veterinary Unit

1. Shall be the over-all Officer-in-Charge of veterinary concerns.
2. Shall assist the Coast Guard Station/Sub-Station Commander in monitoring the health and welfare of apprehended wildlife animals.
3. In the absence of a Coast Guard Veterinary Officer, a team of wildlife handlers must have an open communication with the Veterinary Officer and with the supervision of the Coast Guard Station/Sub-Station Commanders.
4. Shall ensure proper filing of records or reports in respective unit/office.
5. Shall coordinate with CENRO/PENRO of DENR for training, seminars and other related activities concerning the proper handling of wildlife animals; and
6. Conduct information dissemination to all PCG personnel regarding the proper handling of wildlife animals in their respective area of responsibility.

VIII. INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION:

The PCG through the Deputy Chief of Coast Guard Staff for Maritime Security Law Enforcement and Coast Guard Veterinary Service shall establish a coordination mechanism with the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the



(BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for inter-agency collaborations as regards to proper handling of confiscated illegally transported wildlife animals.

IX. EFFECTIVITY:

This SOP shall take effect upon approval and publication. All issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, amended and modified accordingly.

BY COMMAND OF COAST GUARD ADMIRAL ABU:

OFFICIAL:

TITO ALVIN G ANDAL
CG COMMO
Chief of Coast Guard Staff


JAYSIEBELL B FERRER
CG CDR
Coast Guard Adjutant

Annex : Turn-Over of Confiscated Wildlife Animals

Annex



PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD
(Coast Guard District)
(Coast Guard Station)
(Coast Guard Substation)
(Address)

TURN-OVER OF CONFISCATED WILDLIFE ANIMALS

ENTRY NR: _____

Date: _____

This is to certify that the wildlife animals identified as indicated:

SPECIES (confiscated/ seized)				HEALTH/PHYSICAL CONDITION
Common Name	Scientific Name	Quantity (No of heads	Category	

was/were confiscated by Coast Guard personnel on or about _____ at _____ while being transported to _____ by _____ without the necessary license or permits.

This further certifies that the confiscated/seized wildlife has/have been examined by _____ at _____ on _____.

Rank/Name/Signature of Handling Officer

Received by:

Name/Signature of Custodian/Recipient MENRO/CENRO

Time/Date: _____