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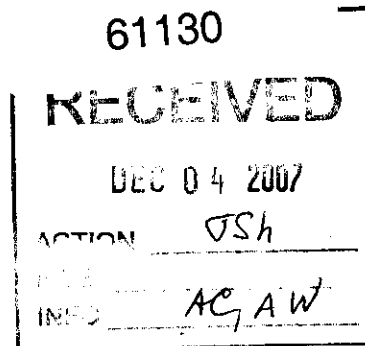
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 Department of Environment and Natural Resources
PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE BUREAU

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Dear Dr. Djoghlaif,

This pertains to your Notification letter requesting for member Parties to submit views and experiences in addressing invasive alien species, including management and control. Accordingly, the submission should focus on legislative measures and national policies, management, assessment communication, education and public awareness, among others.

In this regard, please find below legislative measures and activities undertaken by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau and the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) to improve prevention, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species:

- a. Presidential Proclamation 2146. The said proclamation considered the introduction of fauna (exotic animals) in public and private forest an environmentally critical project, thus any undertaking, which included such activity, will require an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC);
- b. Presidential Decree 1433 or the Plant Quarantine Act. The law specifically regulates the entry of plant, plant products, and animals that may harbor pests or cause harm to agricultural products;
- c. Republic Act 9147 known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. The act provides that no exotic species shall be introduced in the country, unless a clearance from the Secretary or the authorized representative is first obtained. Also, no exotic species shall be introduced into protected areas and critical habitats. In case where introduction is allowed, it shall be subject to environmental impact study.

Further, the act provides for the that all activities dealing on genetic engineering and pathogenic organisms in the Philippines, as well as activities requiring the importation, introduction, field release and breeding of organisms that are potentially harmful to man and the environment shall be reviewed in

potentially harmful to their environment in accordance with the biosafety guidelines ensuring public welfare and the protection and conservation of wildlife and their habitats.



Protect & conserve our forest to save our wildlife

- d. Republic Act 8550 otherwise known as the "Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998". The act provides for the introduction of foreign finfish, mollusks, crustacean, or aquatic plants in Philippine waters without a sound ecological, biological and environmental justification based on scientific studies shall not be allowed subject to biosafety standard. It also requires securing an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for activities that may affect the quality of the marine and freshwater bodies. The law also provides for conservation and rehabilitation measures for rare, threatened, and endangered species.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture through this act is tasked with the responsibility of granting permits for importations and for implementing quarantine regulations for aquatic species.

- e. The National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP) through a set of guidelines provides the framework for enhancing cooperation among various sectors in order to improve prevention, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species. Guidelines for the conduct of risk assessment and biosafety measures for introduced species have also been formulated by the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines;
- f. Preliminary activities are being undertaken for the Philippine ratification to the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments, e.g. meeting with NGOs, GOs and other stakeholder;
- g. As part of communication, education and public awareness, the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau and WorldFish Center (WFC), together with the other concerned agencies has conducted a "Conference-Workshop on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Philippines and their impacts on Biodiversity" last July 26-28, 2006. The Conference gathered scientist, policy makers and other stakeholders to discuss the research, management, and policy associated with biological invasion particularly the sate of biological invasions in their areas of jurisdiction; general invasion processes; and consequences, detection and management of these species both in terrestrial and aquatic environments.

The workshop outputs include a unified declaration to develop and strengthen

partnerships for the management of invasive alien species. The declaration identified concrete undertakings in four major areas namely: research, information and education, networking and policy.

The Philippine is in the process of finalizing the IAS national framework to give impetus to increased collaborative efforts involving the government, private industry, academe, LGUs, local communities and interested stakeholders.

Thank you and regards.

Very truly yours,


THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM
Director