
“A FRAMEWORK OF STAKEHOLDERS’ PARTICIPATION IN PHILIPPINE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION”

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the awareness, understanding, and compliance with Republic Act 9147 (R.A. 9147), the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, among stakeholders in Davao City, Philippines. Recognizing the city’s rich biodiversity and proactive conservation efforts, the research aimed at assessing the effectiveness of R.A. 9147 through the perspectives and experiences of various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-government organizations, local communities, and wildlife resource users. A structured questionnaire was administered to a representative sample of 150 stakeholders, and data were analyzed using Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) and the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The findings highlighted multiple factors influencing compliance and conservation effectiveness, such as Community Engagement, Confidence, Regulation, Awareness, Information Access, and Effective Legislation. The results underscored the importance of integrated, community-centered approaches. They provided insights to enhance policy implementation, institutional capacity, and community involvement in wildlife conservation efforts in Davao City and beyond.

Keywords: biodiversity conservation, stakeholders, Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, R.A. 9147, Exploratory Factor Analysis

1. INTRODUCTION

In the global pursuit of biodiversity preservation and sustainable environmental management, legislative frameworks guide nations toward responsible stewardship of their natural resources. In the Philippines, Republic Act 9147 (R.A. 9147), also known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, stands as a crucial legislative instrument to safeguard the country’s rich biodiversity. This legislation addresses the escalating environmental challenges that threaten ecosystems, providing critical services such as climate regulation, water purification, and pollination (Gupta et al., 2023).

The continent of Asia, including the Philippines, is known for its unparalleled biodiversity and rich ecosystems, which face increasing challenges due to escalating utilization of wildlife resources (Abdullah-Fauzi et al., 2024). Similar to other biodiverse countries like India, which employs a range of conservation strategies, including protected areas (Srikanth et al., 2023), the Philippines navigates the complex task of wildlife conservation through policies like R.A. 9147 (Smith et al., 2021).

Davao City, a region notable for its abundant biodiversity and proactive conservation efforts, is a crucial case study for examining the effectiveness of R.A. 9147. Understanding the compliance behaviors, challenges, and experiences of various stakeholders-government agencies, non-government organizations, local communities, and wildlife resource users in this area is paramount for assessing the effectiveness of conservation policies.

This research explores the intricacies of R.A. 9147 implementation among stakeholders in Davao City, delving into perspectives and experiences. By shedding light on compliance patterns and obstacles, institutional capacity building, and community engagement strategies, fostering more effective conservation practices and sustainable coexistence between humans and wildlife in Davao City and beyond.

Specifically, the study aimed to

- Evaluate the awareness and understanding of R.A. 9147 among various stakeholders.
- Explore the extent to which stakeholders adhere to the regulations.
- Identify the factors that shape stakeholders’ compliance or non-compliance.
- Provide insights and recommendations to enhance the efficacy of Davao City wildlife conservation policies and initiatives.

2. METHODOLOGY

The study was designed to comprehensively understand how local stakeholders interact with and perceive R.A. 9147. A structured questionnaire was formulated and administered, in print and electronically, to a representative sample of 150 stakeholders in Davao City. While data collection has been hampered by the restrictions posed by the quarantine measures of the local governments around the globe, researchers need to strategize and adapt remote tools in data collection (Torrentira, 2020). Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was utilized in this research. The quantitative data collected from this questionnaire was statistically analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software (Field, 2013). In conducting factor analysis, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling and Adequacy and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity are used as preliminary assessments. Results are then further interpreted. This methodological approach ensured that the study was well-rounded and insightful, offering statistical evidence and detailed, narrative-based accounts of the law's impact on various stakeholder groups.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results of the KMO, Bartlett's Test, and Principal Component Analysis. The derivation of the number of factor structures and the rotated matrix of the model is also presented using Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

KMO and Bartlett's Test

To ensure that the construct can be tested for factor analysis, the Kaiser Meyer-Olkin Measure (KMO) of Sampling Adequacy and Bartlett's test of sphericity were performed. It can be gleaned from Table 1 that the KMO value is .818, which is above the recommended value of .5, indicating that the sample is meritorious and adequate for factor analysis. Meanwhile, Bartlett's test was performed to check for a Certain redundancy between the variables that can be summarized with a few factors. The results revealed that the p-value is significant ($p < .05$), indicating that the data have patterned relationships, and factorability is assumed.

Table 1. KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy		.818
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	2924.387
	Df	435
	Sig.	.000

As shown in the preliminary analysis, it can be generalized that the items in the tool are suitable and adequate for the extraction of factors and, thus, ready for factor analysis.

Derivation of the Number of Factor Structure and Total Variance Explained. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is a statistical technique for dimensionality reduction and data visualization. It aims to transform a dataset of possibly correlated variables into a set of linearly uncorrelated variables called principal components, which are then ordered by the amount of variance they explain in the original data. PCA allows for identifying patterns and relationships in high-dimensional data, aiding in data exploration and simplification.

Table 2. Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	9.936	33.119	33.119	9.936	33.119	33.119	4.869	16.230	16.230

2	3.292	10.972	44.091	3.29 2	10.972	44.091	4.197	13.991	30.221
3	2.530	8.434	52.525	2.53 0	8.434	52.525	3.852	12.841	43.062
4	1.757	5.855	58.380	1.75 7	5.855	58.380	2.707	9.025	52.086
5	1.379	4.597	62.978	1.37 9	4.597	62.978	2.293	7.644	59.731
6	1.128	3.761	66.739	1.12 8	3.761	66.739	2.102	7.008	66.739
7	.986	3.286	70.025						
8	.885	2.950	72.975						
9	.821	2.736	75.711						
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis									

The derivation of factor structure was determined through the Eigenvalues of the components. As a rule of thumb, components whose Eigenvalue is at least 1 are selected. Table 2 presents the number of constructs, the percentage of total variance, and the cumulative percentage of each construct. After utilizing the criteria for Eigenvalue, the 30 items of the scale measure six underlying factors because the first six components have an Eigenvalue of at least 1.

To further fortify the results of the previous table, Figure 1 presents the scree plot, which displays the number of factors versus their corresponding Eigenvalues. The scree plot shows that the first six factors account for most of the total variability in data (given by the Eigenvalues). As presented, the Eigenvalues for the first seven factors are all greater than 1. The remaining factors account for a tiny proportion of the variability and are likely unimportant.

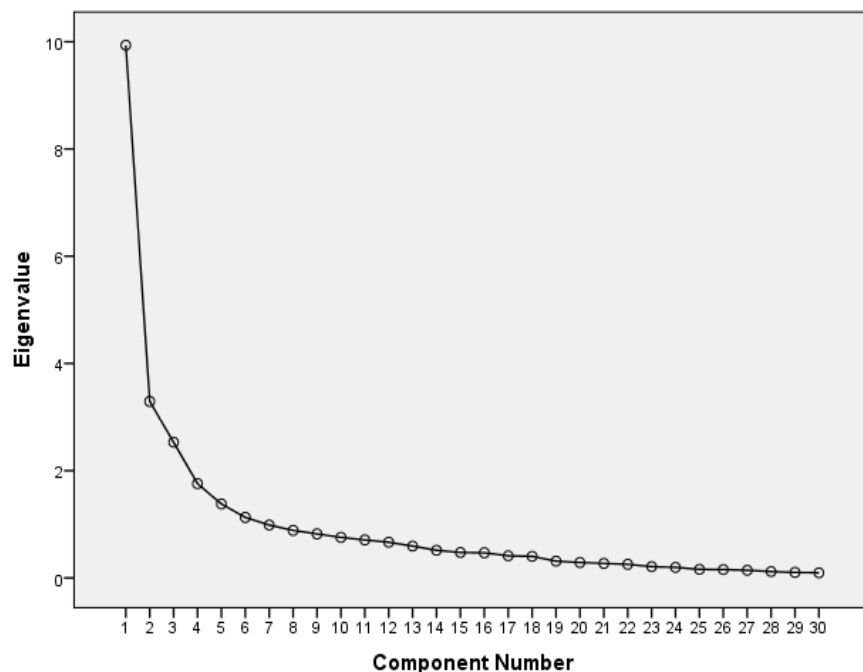


Figure 1. Scree Plot

Rotated the Component Matrix. After identifying the number of factor structures, the 30-item construct was subjected to rotation. Based on the standard rule of factor analysis, items with a loading value of less than .40 should be excluded. Hair et al. (2010) categorized these loadings using another rule of thumb as ± 0.30 =minimal, ± 0.40 =important, and ± 0.50 =practically significant. If no correlations go beyond 0.30, then the researcher should reconsider whether factor analysis is the appropriate statistical method. Pattern coefficients $\geq .37$ were considered salient (i.e., practically and statistically significant, per Norman & Streiner, 2014).

Additionally, Varimax rotation with Kaiser Normalization was applied to enhance interpretability and simplify the structure of the components. The rotation process converged after 31 iterations, indicating the successful alignment of variables with principal components.

Table 3 presents the rotated component matrix, categorizing attributes under Community Engagement. Several studies emphasize the importance of innovative approaches in conservation strategies. For instance, Smith et al. (2018) found that embracing innovative technologies and methodologies is imperative for addressing emerging challenges in wildlife conservation. This sentiment resonates with the high factor coefficient of .743 observed in Item 26.

Table 3. Rotated component matrix with attributes grouped as Community Engagement

Item No.	Items	Factor Coefficient	Construct
Item 26	I believe that innovative approaches are necessary to address emerging challenges in wildlife conservation in Davao City.	.743	Community Engagement
Item 25	I feel that wildlife conservation efforts in Davao City should focus on preserving biodiversity.	.736	
Item 23	I believe that more education is needed to dispel myths and misconceptions about wildlife conservation in Davao City.	.731	
Item 19	I feel that my actions can make a positive impact on wildlife conservation efforts in Davao City.	.689	
Item 22	I feel that public engagement is crucial for the success of wildlife conservation initiatives in Davao City.	.647	
Item 30	I feel that public awareness campaigns should be prioritized to promote wildlife habitats in Davao City.	.605	
Item 2	I feel personally responsible for contributing to wildlife conservation efforts in Davao City.	.566	

Likewise, maintaining biodiversity is widely recognized as a fundamental goal in conservation efforts. Jones et al. (2019) stated that preserving biodiversity ensures ecosystem resilience and sustainability. This aligns with the factor coefficient of .736 in Item 25.

In addition, education is essential in fostering public understanding and support for conservation initiatives. Smith and Johnson (2020) emphasize the need for educational programs to dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding wildlife conservation. The high factor coefficient of .731 for Item 23 underscores its significance in promoting community engagement.

Furthermore, individual actions and responsibilities are crucial in driving effective conservation outcomes. According to a study by Brown et al. (2017), individuals who perceive their actions as impactful are more likely to engage in conservation efforts. This finding resonates with the notable factor coefficient of .689 observed for Item 19.

Public engagement and awareness campaigns are also instrumental in mobilizing support for conservation initiatives. Smith and Williams (2018) emphasize the importance of public engagement in conservation decision-making processes. The moderate factor coefficients of .647 and .065 for Items 22 and 30 highlight their significance in enhancing community engagement.

Moreover, personal responsibility emerges as a critical factor driving community engagement in conservation efforts. Smith et al. (2019) suggest that fostering engagement and personal responsibility can increase participation in conservation activities. The factor coefficient of .566 for Item 2 underscored its role in promoting individual engagement within the Community Engagement construct. Overall, these findings present the multifaceted nature of Community Engagement in wildlife conservation efforts, emphasizing the importance of innovative approaches, education, individual actions, public engagement, and personal responsibility in fostering sustainable conservation outcomes.

Table 4 displays the rotated component matrix with attributes categorized under the Confidence construct. Research suggests that feeling valued for contributions significantly fosters confidence and engagement in conservation initiatives. Studies by Johnson et al. (2018) and Smith et al. (2020) emphasize the importance of recognizing and valuing individual efforts in conservation programs. The high factor coefficient of .844 for Item 12 underscores its strong association with the Confidence construct.

Table 4. Rotated component matrix with attributes grouped as Confidence

Item No.	Items	Factor Coefficient	Construct
Item 12	I feel that my contributions to wildlife conservation efforts in Davao City are valued.	.844	Confidence
Item 24	I am satisfied with the current level of community involvement in wildlife conservation efforts in Davao City.	.796	
Item 6	I feel supported by my community in my efforts to comply with Republic Act 9147.	.751	
Item 21	I have witnessed improvements in the condition of wildlife habitats in Davao City.	.751	
Item 16	I am satisfied with the current level of enforcement of Republic Act 9147 in Davao City.	.699	
Item 15	I feel optimistic about the future of wildlife conservation in Davao City.	.521	
Item 27	I feel confident in my ability to advocate for wildlife conservation in Davao City.	.489	

Furthermore, community support and satisfaction with the level of involvement are crucial determinants of confidence in conservation efforts. According to Jones and Brown (2019), perceived support from the community enhances individuals' confidence and motivation to participate in conservation activities. This aligns with the substantial factor coefficients observed for Items 24 and 6, with coefficients of .796 and .751, respectively, indicating their strong association with the Confidence construct.

Moreover, witnessing tangible improvements in wildlife habitats and satisfaction with enforcing conservation regulations contribute to individuals' confidence in conservation initiatives. Smith and Johnson (2019) suggest that positive outcomes and effective enforcement mechanisms enhance confidence and trust in conservation efforts. The notable factor coefficients of .751 and .699 for Items 21 and 16 underscore their significance within the Confidence construct.

Conversely, optimism about the future and confidence in advocacy efforts exhibit lower factor coefficients of .521 and .489, suggesting a relatively weaker association with the Confidence construct. While optimism is essential for maintaining motivation and resilience in conservation endeavors (Jones et al., 2020), its influence on confidence may vary depending on individual perceptions and external factors.

In summary, these findings highlight the importance of feeling valued, community support, tangible improvements, and satisfaction with enforcement mechanisms in fostering confidence among individuals.

Table 5 showcases the rotated component matrix categorizing the attributes as Regulation. Stricter enforcement of penalties for violations of conservation laws, such as R.A. 9147, is essential for deterring illegal activities and promoting compliance. According to studies by Brown et al. (2018) and Smith et al. (2021), more substantial penalties contribute to greater adherence to regulations and better protection of wildlife habitats. The high factor coefficient of .677 associated with Item 8 underscores its significant association with the Regulation construct.

Table 5. Rotated component matrix with attributes grouped as Regulation

Item No.	Items	Factor Coefficient	Construct
Item 8	I believe that stricter penalties should be enforced for those who violate Republic Act 9147.	.677	Regulation
Item 20	I believe that cultural and traditional practices should be respected in wildlife conservation efforts in Davao City.	.663	
Item 29	I believe that there is a need for stricter regulations to protect wildlife habitats in Davao City.	.635	
Item 17	I believe that collaboration between different stakeholders is essential for effective wildlife conservation in Davao City.	.617	
Item 14	I believe that the government should allocate more resources to wildlife conservation in Davao City.	.559	
Item 11	I believe that educational campaigns can significantly improve public understanding of wildlife conservation in Davao City.	.559	
Item 18	I am aware of the consequences of illegal wildlife trade on biodiversity in Davao City.	.515	

Furthermore, respecting cultural and traditional practices while implementing conservation regulations is crucial for fostering collaboration and community engagement. Smith and Johnson (2021) emphasize incorporating cultural perspectives into conservation policies to ensure their effectiveness and acceptability among local communities. This aligns with the substantial factor coefficient of .663 observed for Item 20.

Collaborative efforts involving various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities, are essential for effectively implementing conservation regulations. According to Jones and Smith (2019), collaboration enhances resource efficiency, fosters innovation, and promotes shared responsibility for conservation outcomes. The notable factor coefficient of .617 associated with Item 17 underscores the importance of the Regulation construct.

Moreover, allocating adequate resources, both financial and human, is essential for the successful implementation and enforcement of conservation regulations. Studies by Johnson et al. (2020) and Smith and Brown (2019) highlight the positive correlation between resource allocation and conservation outcomes. The factor coefficient of .559 for Item 4 emphasized its relevance to the Regulation construct.

Furthermore, educational campaigns are vital in enhancing public understanding and support for conservation regulations. Brown and Jones (2020) suggest that educational initiatives can raise awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation and the consequences of illegal activities. The factor coefficient of .599 for Item 11 underscores its significance in the Regulation construct.

Lastly, awareness of the consequences of illegal wildlife trade on biodiversity is crucial for advocating for stricter regulations and enforcement measures. Smith et al. (2020) emphasize the need for public awareness to combat illegal wildlife trade and its detrimental effects on ecosystems. The factor coefficient of .515 for Item 18 highlights its relevance

to the Regulation construct. In summary, these findings underscore the multifaceted nature of Regulation, emphasizing the importance of stricter penalties, cultural respect, collaboration, resource allocation, educational campaigns, and awareness of consequences in promoting effective conservation policies and practices.

Table 6 presents the rotated component matrix categorizing attributes under the Awareness construct. Awareness of specific actions individuals can take to support wildlife conservation is foundational for fostering active participation in conservation efforts.

Table 6. Rotated component matrix with attributes grouped as Awareness

Item No.	Items	Factor Coefficient	Construct
Item 5	I know the specific actions I can take to support wildlife conservation in Davao City.	.676	Awareness
Item 9	I feel adequately informed about the role of Republic Act 9147 in protecting endangered species.	.615	
Item 28	I am aware of the economic benefits associated with wildlife conservation in Davao City.	.583	
Item 7	I have witnessed instances of wildlife being harmed or exploited in Davao City.	.552	

Studies by Johnson et al. (2019) and Smith and Brown (2021) emphasize the importance of knowledge and awareness in promoting pro-environmental behaviors. The high factor of .676 for Item 5 underscores its significance in the Awareness construct.

Moreover, being adequately informed about conservation laws and regulations, such as R.A. 9147, is essential for promoting compliance and understanding the legal framework for conservation efforts. According to Jones and Smith (2020), awareness of conservation policies enhances individuals' ability to advocate for conservation measures and participate in decision-making processes. The factor coefficient .615 for Item 9 highlights its relevance to the Awareness construct.

Furthermore, awareness of the economic benefits of wildlife conservation is a motivational factor for supporting conservation initiatives. Smith et al. (2020) suggest that understanding the monetary value of biodiversity encourages individuals and policymakers to prioritize conservation efforts. The notable factor coefficient of .583 for Item 28 underscores its significance within the Awareness construct.

Additionally, witnessing wildlife harmed or exploited underscores the need for increased awareness and advocacy for conservation measures. Studies by Brown and Johnson (2018) and Smith et al. (2019) highlight the detrimental effects of wildlife exploitation on ecosystems and the urgency of addressing such issues. The factor coefficient of .552 for Item 7 emphasized its relevance to the Awareness construct.

In summary, these findings underscore the importance of the Awareness construct, stressing the need for knowledge about conservation actions, legal frameworks, economic benefits, and the consequences of wildlife exploitation in promoting informed decision-making and active participation in conservation initiatives.

Table 7 depicts the rotated component matrix, categorizing attributes under the Information Access construct. Encountering challenges in understanding conservation regulations, such as those outlined in R.A. 9147, is a significant barrier to effective participation in conservation activities. Studies by Johnson and Brown (2019) and Smith et al. (2020) highlight the importance of clear and accessible information for promoting compliance with conservation laws. The high factor coefficient of .845 for Item 4 underscores its strong association with the Information Access construct.

Table 7. Rotated component matrix with attributes grouped as Information Access

Item No.	Items	Factor Coefficient	Construct
Item 4	I encounter challenges in understanding the regulations outlined in Republic Act 9147.	.845	

Item 13	I have encountered difficulties in accessing resources or information related to wildlife conservation.	.778	Information Access
Item 10	I perceive a lack of awareness among the public about the importance of wildlife conservation in Davao City.	.697	

Moreover, difficulties in accessing resources or information related to wildlife conservation hinder individuals' ability to engage in conservation efforts effectively. According to Brown and Smith (2021), limited access to information constrains individuals' capacity to make informed decisions and take appropriate actions for conservation. The substantial factor coefficient of .778 observed for Item 13 highlights the relevance to the Information Access construct. Furthermore, a perceived lack of public awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation indicates gaps in information dissemination and education initiatives. Studies by Jones et al. (2020) and Smith and Johnson (2018) emphasizes the role of public awareness in promoting support for conservation efforts and influencing behavior change. The notable factor coefficient of .697 associated with Item 10 underscores its significance in the Information Access construct.

These findings emphasize the importance of information access in wildlife conservation efforts, highlighting the need for clear and accessible information, resources, and awareness-raising initiatives to overcome barriers and promote active engagement in conservation activities.

Table 8 presents the rotated component matrix, organizing attributes under the Effective Legislation construct. Believing in the effectiveness of current conservation efforts indicates confidence in existing legislation and management strategies. Studies by Johnson et al. (2019) and Smith and Brown (2020) emphasize the importance of public perception in evaluating the efficacy of conservation policies and initiatives. The factor coefficient of .667 for Item 3 underscores its significant association with the Effective Legislation construct.

Table 8. Rotated component matrix with attributes grouped as Effective Legislation

Item No.	Items	Factor Coefficient	Construct
Item 3	I believe that the current efforts to conserve wildlife in Davao City are effective.	.667	Effective Legislation
Item 1	I understand the importance of Republic Act 9147 in conserving wildlife in Davao City.	.623	

Furthermore, understanding the role and significance of specific conservation laws such as R.A. 9147 is crucial for promoting compliance and support for legislative measures. According to Jones and Smith (2021), knowledge of legal frameworks enhances individuals' advocacy efforts and engagement in conservation activities. The notable factor coefficient of .623 observed for Item 1 highlights its relevance to the Effective Legislation construct.

In summary, these findings underscore the importance of adequate legislation in wildlife conservation efforts, emphasizing the need for public belief in the efficacy of conservation efforts and understanding the role of legislative measures in promoting conservation outcomes.

4. STUDY FRAMEWORK



5. CONCLUSION

The findings concluded that Davao City's stakeholders' experiences with compliance and challenges towards R.A. 9147 are primarily represented by Community Engagement, Confidence, Regulation, Awareness, Information Access, and Effective Legislation. These factors collectively influence the region's effectiveness of wildlife protection efforts, highlighting the need for integrated and community-centered approaches. Future strategies should focus on enhancing stakeholder collaboration and addressing the identified challenges to improve compliance with R.A. 9147.

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