

***Bird of Prey* documentary premieres in the Philippines**



Left: The team behind *Bird of Prey* and officials from the Philippine Eagle Foundation answered questions from the audience after the special screening in Makati; Right: Emmy Award-winning cinematographer Neil Rettig shared his experience filming *Bird of Prey*. (Photo Credit: Protect Wildlife)

USAID's Protect Wildlife project partnered with the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) to host the national premiere of *Bird of Prey*, an ultra-HD wildlife documentary on the iconic Philippine eagle.

Produced by Cornell Lab of Ornithology together with Emmy Award-winning cinematographer Neil Rettig and the PEF, *Bird of Prey* follows a Philippine eagle family in the wild over the course of five months, documenting how a pair of eagles take care of their young until it learns to fly off the nest and fend for itself. The film also explores the complexities of protecting this critically endangered species and what it takes to save it from extinction.

Protect Wildlife supported the special screenings for national government officials, conservation partners and the public in several venues in Manila, Makati and University of the Philippines Diliman. In the coming months, the project will host more screenings in cities across the country, particularly in regions where there are identified forest habitats of the Philippine eagle.

Protect Wildlife receives development aid award for biodiversity conservation



Left: USAID/Philippines Deputy Mission Director Patrick Wesner receives the Mission:PHL Embassy Award for the Biodiversity Category from DENR-BMB Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez; Right: Patrick Wesner expressed USAID's and the United States Embassy's appreciation for the award.
(Photo Credit: Protect Wildlife)

At the Mission:PHL Envoys and Expats Recognition Awards held this week, USAID's Protect Wildlife project was recognized for its work in strengthening multisectoral efforts to conserve biodiversity in the Philippines.

Mission:PHL is organized by Philippine broadsheet *Business Mirror* to celebrate the role of nations as partners in Philippine development. The awards recognized various embassies, consulates and aid agencies, as well as economic and cultural offices, and their projects that have contributed to economic growth, social progress and sustainable development in the country.

Under the Biodiversity Category, the United States Embassy, through the USAID Protect Wildlife project, bagged the Embassy Award for best bilateral project in biodiversity conservation, after deliberation by a technical working group composed of officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and *Business Mirror*.

USAID/Philippines Deputy Mission Director Patrick Wesner received the award on behalf of the U.S. Embassy from DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez. Wesner expressed the embassy's gratitude for the award and its commitment to further boost the partnership between the U.S. and Philippine governments in addressing challenges brought by biodiversity loss and illegal wildlife trade in the country.