



The Magnificent *Philippine* Eagle

The Philippine Eagle, our national bird, is the largest eagle in the world. This magnificent bird proudly stands at one (1) meter in height and has a wingspan of about two (2) meters. The head is adorned with pointed crown feathers known as a “crest” and possesses a massive arched beak.

Our national bird has been given mighty names in the various regions such as “Haring Ibon”, “Agila”, “Mamboogook”, “Garuda”, “Banog”, “Asinmanonoy” and “Blok”.

Female eagles are sexually mature at five (5) years of age, the males at seven (7) years. This majestic bird builds its nest on large trees usually found along steep slopes and ravines. Their nests, measuring 1-2 meters wide, are made of large platforms of decaying twigs and sticks.

The female Philippine eagle lays only one (1) egg every two (2) years. Both parents take turns incubating the egg for about 60 days. At 22 months, the young eagle leaves its parents’ home and searches for its own territory.



The Philippine eagle is endemic to the Philippines and is known to inhabit the forested areas of the Sierra Madre and the Cordillera Mountain Ranges of Luzon, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao.

This critically endangered bird with a current population estimate of about 500 pairs (*Ibañez, et al., 2006*) throughout the archipelago faces the risk of extinction due primarily to loss of habitat. If this persists, the young eagles would have no territories of their own to perpetuate its kind. Hunting of the species has also contributed to their declining population.

Why do we need to conserve them?

The Philippine eagle is a national symbol for the rich Filipino heritage that epitomizes the Filipinos’ tenacity and resilience in overcoming the odds to achieve its goals, soaring high as our eagles amidst all adversities.

The Philippine eagle and other raptors regulate the population of smaller animals that can pose danger to humans like snakes, and cause damage to agricultural crops such as rats. The presence of the eagles in the forests is an ecological indicator that connotes a rich and biodiverse environment.

Philippine eagle habitats can be regarded as ecotourism destinations when managed following the principles of sustainable development. These habitats would afford bird watchers, hikers and tourists alike, to marvel at this magnificent bird and other wildlife whilst providing livelihood for the local communities.





What can you do to help our eagles?

1. Report to the nearest DENR Office the following:
 - a) any sightings in the wild including those that have been captured or injured;
 - b) any illegal activities such as hunting, killing and trapping of eagles;
2. Tell others on the importance of conserving wildlife.
3. Support the rehabilitation of forest habitats by planting more trees.
4. Reduce, reuse, and recycle your garbage to lessen the demand for forest derived products.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU
 Philippine Raptors Conservation Program
 Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
 Tel: (02) 924-60-31 to 36
 (02) 925-8946
 Telefax: (02) 925-8953
 email: wrd@bmb.gov.ph

PHILIPPINE EAGLE

(Pithecophaga jefferyi)



The Crown Jewel of Philippine Biodiversity