



THE **PAG-ASA** NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-MARCH 2020

CALL FOR SUPPORT COVID-19 AND AVIAN FLU FORCE CLOSURE OF PEC

It was in 2017 when the PEC was closed for the first time due to the Avian Flu outbreak in Central Luzon. In March 16 this year, the same strain of virus was again detected in the area. In response to this and the COVID 19 pandemic, the PEF decided to close the facility for the safety of its staff, the eagles, and all the other animals in its care. p.5



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 4** MALE AND JUVENILE EAGLES OF MT. SINAKA

- 6** MT. APO FOREST GUARDS OF DAVAO CITY

- 12** BIRD OF PREY SCREENING WITH THE AUSTRALIA GLOBAL

PHILIPPINE EAGLE "SINABADAN"

Female eagle Sinabadan was instrumented as a one-year old eaglet at Mt Apo in Davao City in 2014. She turned six years old last December 2019 and settled in a secondary forest over 100 km away from where she was hatched. For this quarter, she spent most of her time at the remote hills of Davao del Norte. But towards the end of March, she began moving southwest across open areas and forest patches before re-settling back in Davao at the heart of a small forest reserve north of the city. She covered a total aerial distance of over 40 km.



Jan-Mar 2020 GPS readings of eagle Sinabadan. From the hills and mountains of Davao del Norte, she flew southwest over a distance of >40 kms to a small forest reserve north of Davao City

TOWARDS A SPECIES RESTORATION PROGRAM IN LEYTE

Leyte is one of only four Philippine islands where eagles are historically found. Although eagles were seen in Leyte in the past, an active nest is yet to be discovered on the island. Only two large forests are left in Leyte – the Anonang-Lobi and Mt Nacolod mountain ranges. During this period, we continued work with key stakeholders and pilot communities at both sites for a possible species restoration program in Leyte.

In January, the PEF co-hosted the first meeting for 2020 of the Management Council for the Mt. Nacolod Local Conservation Area (LCA) – a 14,000-hectare local protected area in southern Leyte. The Council reviewed their Local Conservation Management Plan which stipulates the strategies for the protection of Mt. Nacolod aiming to conserve and maintain its biodiversity. They saw huge implementation gaps, and agreed to encourage more community roles for plan implementation. Barangay Catmon, one of two pilot communities in Mt Nacolod, also reviewed and updated its conservation plan and we helped them in getting support from their Silago town leaders.



CDP Assessment in Brgy. Catmon, Silago



2020 1st quarter Provincial Management Council Meeting at St. Bernard, Southern Leyte

TOWARDS A SPECIES RESTORATION PROGRAM IN LEYTE

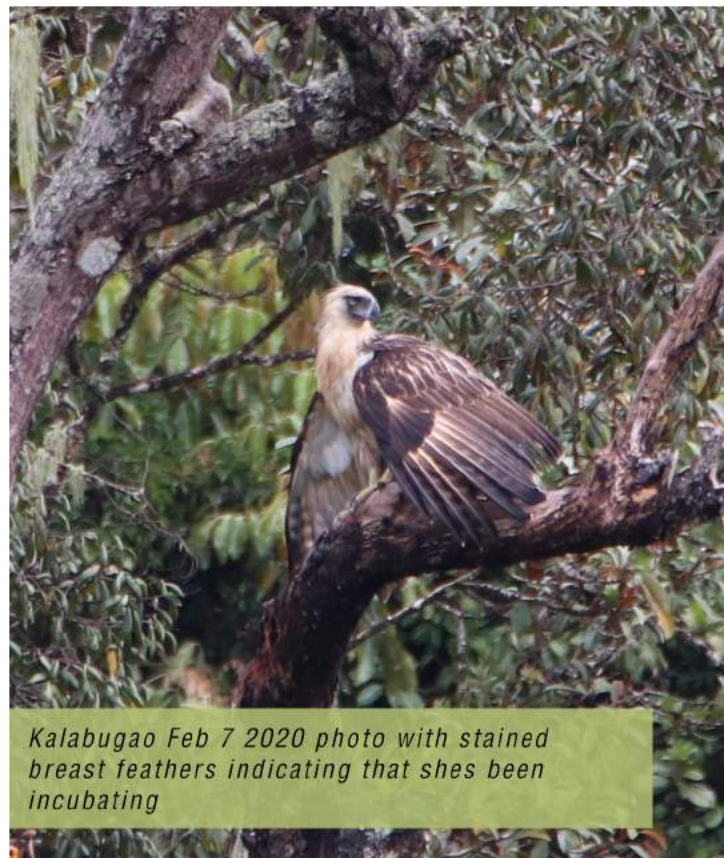
We also sought possible funding from various Rotary Club organizations in Tacloban City for Catmon. Our pilot community for Anonang Lobi Range is Barangay Cagbana in Burauen town.

A draft MOA for conservation partnership and subsidies is currently being reviewed by LGU Burauen, and site profiling and education outreach have begun at Cagbana in March. Unfortunately, community development and women enterprise planning in Cagbana were put on hold because of the COVID-19 lockdown.

THIRD NESTING OF EAGLE "KALABUGAO" FAILED

We combined fieldwork and remote GPS/GSM tracking to monitor "Kalabugao", an instrumented eagle we have been following since its release in 2008. She found a mate in 2015 and laid her first egg in 2016, but that egg failed to hatch. She nested again and hatched her first offspring in 2018. She is expected to nest anew this season (2019-20).

We mapped out the GPS fixes from her tracker and indeed she has nested. From Dec 10, 2019 to Feb 8, 2020, her GPS readings clustered in a single spot in the forest for 61 days. It suggests that Kalabugao is incubating an egg fulltime. When the team checked the nest site in Feb 2020, they saw Kalabugao standing on a tall tree, with her breast feathers stained with dirt – another strong clue that she has been sitting on an egg.



Kalabugao Feb 7 2020 photo with stained breast feathers indicating that shes been incubating

THIRD NESTING OF EAGLE "KALABUGAO" FAILED

But telemetry readings showed that after Feb 11, Kalabugao left and never went back to the nest. That is unusual as nesting females stay close to their chick up to over a month after hatching to feed, brood on it, and keep it safe and warm. Kalabugao leaving the nest and not returning simply meant that this season's nesting failed again. Either the egg did not hatch or the young chick died. Unfortunately, as of writing, the national COVID-19 lockdown prevented us to conduct fieldwork to check on Kalabugao.



Mapped GPS readings clustering on a particular spot (suspected NEST) between Dec 10, 2019 to Feb 8, 2020. Eagle "Kalabugao" suspected to be incubating an egg fulltime during this period.



From Feb 11 – Mar 30 2020, mapped GPS readings were distributed away from the NEST, and Kalabugao apparently never stayed close to the nest during this period.

MALE AND JUVENILE EAGLES OF MT. SINAKA

Two Philippine eagles, an adult male and its then 10-month-old eaglet, were instrumented with solar-powered GPS/GSM transmitters in November 2019 at Mt Sinaka, North Cotabato. Between January and March, the GPS units of the male and juvenile eagles recorded a total of 10,767 and 11,337 GPS fixes (locations), respectively. These are equivalent to a recording rate of 118 (male) and 124 (juvenile) GPS readings per day.



Male eagle and juvenile eagle on the nest in Mt Sinaka

When these readings were mapped out, it appeared that the male eagle covered a total activity area of 3,047 ha. The eaglet, on the other hand, stayed close to the nest and moved only within an area of 152 ha. Both birds never ventured out of Mt.Sinaka.



Jan-March 2020 GPS readings of the Sinaka male eagle covered an activity area (white polygon) of 3,076 ha. The male eagle did not fly away from Mt Sinaka.



Jan-March 2020 GPS readings of the eaglet covered an activity area (white polygon) of 152 ha. The eaglet stayed close to its nest site.



CALL FOR SUPPORT: COVID-19 and Avian Flu Force Closure of PEC

Our very own Philippine eagle is vulnerable to such infectious disease as the Avian Flu. As such we continue to improve our biosecurity measures in the PEC including mandatory stepping on footbaths by anyone who enters the Center, mandatory showers by keepers before they handle the birds, and more frequent hand washing with more sanitizer stations. We also disinfect all our vehicles that enter the property particularly the tires and implement tighter restrictions in the isolation, quarantine, and breeding areas of the PEC. A plan for perimeter fencing is also underway.

Despite all these to prioritize the welfare of our eagles and animals, we face the challenge of losing a significant portion of our resources from the entrance fees due to the closure. This impacts the day-to-day subsistence the animals need and, in the long run, the Foundation’s operations.

In light of the PEC closure, we would like to ask for further support. Please visit our website philippineeaglefoundation.org/donate.

Animal Inventory at the Philippine Eagle Center

AVIAN		MAMMALS		REPTILES	
Philippine Eagle	31	Long Tailed Macaque	16	Estuarine Crocodile	1
White Bellied Sea Eagle	9	Philippine Warty Pig	1	Reticulated Python	2
Philippine Serpent Eagle	6	Philippine Brown Deer	5	Water Monitor Lizard	3
Pinsker’s Hawk Eagle	12	Common Palm Civet	4		
Philippine Eagle Owl	1	Malayan Palm Civet	1		
Eastern Grass Owl	4				
Mindano Lowland Scops Owl	4				
Giant Scops Owl	2				
Grey Headed Fishing Eagle	1				
Chinese Goshawk	1				
Peregrine Falcon	1				
Black Shouldered Kite	3				
Brahminy Kite	5				
TOTAL	80		27		6



Forest Guards during patrol

MT. APO FOREST GUARDS OF DAVAO CITY

At present, 173 Bantay Bukid (forest guard) from the Indigenous Obu Manuvu, Bagobo Tagabawa, and Bagobo Klata groups of Davao City conduct foot patrols and various community services across the Mt. Apo range. These volunteers document and ward-off timber poaching, kaingin, and other forest threats in their respective ancestral domains with support from the Davao City government and the PEF.

For this reporting period, the Bantay Bukid volunteers were busy mapping their patrol routes using GPS and GIS techniques. The goal is to complete the mapping of a total of 10 kilometers of transects for each of the five barangays covered. As of this writing, the mapping work is more than 50 % complete.

While mapping, they also recorded threats such as wildlife traps, trees whose bark were peeled off, forest clearings, and some timber poaching. Some important species of wildlife were also detected during patrols, including IUCN “threatened” hornbills (Southern Rufous and the Writhed Hornbills), and a one-year old Philippine eagle in one of the old eagle nest sites they monitor. The camera traps they used to monitor wildlife also captured images of the Philippine Brown Deer and the Philippine Warty Pig.



Planted wildlings as of February 2020

NURTURING A CARBON FOREST IN DAVAO CITY

The PEF and Ayala Land Inc (ALI) are currently caring for over 7,000 seedlings of native trees in a six-hectare forest restoration area at Bago Gallera, Davao City. The seedlings are of fast growing native trees such as Alim/Alum *Melanolepis multiglandulosa*, Antipolo *Artocarpus blancoi*, Igyo *Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum*, Binunga *Macaranga tenarius*, and others.



Forest Guards at the Davao Carbon Forest

Within this quarter, our technicians and volunteers continued a monthly maintenance work (weeding, watering, and trimming). Our volunteers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines also planted 500 new seedlings to replace those that have died. To replenish our nurseries with new planting stocks, new seedlings were collected (earth-balled) from the nearby woodland.

We are also raising funds to help finance monthly seedling maintenance work. For a donation of Php 500.00, we will plant and maintain a seedling for a six-month period on behalf of the adopter.

We will also send photos and measurements of the adopted seedling so the adopter can monitor their plant's progress. A minimum number of 30 adopters can also opt to band together and plant the trees as a group. They can also avail of a guided bird watching and nature walk at the nearby woodlands to be facilitated by the PEF. We had our first 20 adopters in January, followed by a whopping 700 adopters in March.

To adopt a seedling, e-mail info@philippineaglefoundation.org.

SECURING OUR FUTURE

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION IN MT. SINAKA

Mt. Sinaka in North Cotabato has been a nesting territory for a pair of Philippine Eagles since 1995. At the same time, it is a watershed and an important source of natural resources that indigenous and migrant communities around the mountain use to meet their daily needs.



Members of the Barangay LGU participating in the workshop for the Community Conservation Plan



Randy Bruno, a community member, discussing the organizations present in their area

Salasang is one of the five barangays at the base of Mt Sinaka that renewed their commitment to help save the eagles and their forest habitat. Through PEF facilitation, three villages in Salasang developed and published their Community Development and Conservation Plan (CDCP). The CDCP contains their aspirations for a better life in the next five years through sustainable livelihoods. It also outlines how the villages can achieve progress by also conserving the eagles and the forests.



Community members formulating their five-year conservation plan

PEF and other future partners will help the villages achieve what they wrote in the plan, but only if the residents do their share in conservation work. They also organized a community association who will lead conservation activities at the village level.

EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED IN SIERRA MADRE

The Northern Sierra Madre Mountain Range is the largest block of forests in northern Luzon, and perhaps, has the largest concentration of eagles on the island. To raise public awareness, we launched a series of education campaigns across Aurora, Quirino, Isabela, and Cagayan Valley.

For this period, we focused our campaigns in the schools of Madella town in Quirino where an instrumented female Philippine eagle released in 2010 was last seen with a male eagle. We suspect that the female eagle has settled in the forests of Madella.





Grades 4-6 students from Maddela South Central School

With the help of the Provincial PLGU of Quirino, we interacted with 1,181 students of Grades 4-6 in eight (8) elementary schools: (i) Mariano Gadingan Elementary School, (ii) San Pedro Elementary School, (iii) Maddela South Central School, (iv) Abbag Elementary School, (v) San Dionisio 2 SCALA Integrated School, (vi) Cabarroguis Central School, (vii) Maddela North Central School, and (viii) Magandingay Elementary School. Apart from lectures and “eagle-inspired” games, we also screened the multi-awarded Philippine Eagle documentary “Bird of Prey” with the kids.

BIRD OF PREY SCREENING IN CAGAYAN VALLEY

The award-winning documentary “Bird of Prey” is a film following the journey of Neil Rettig to find the Philippine Eagle in the wild and tackling the many threats driving the raptor close to extinction. The film has been shown in over 100 venues across the Philippines in 2019, raising awareness on the dwindling number of the species and what people can do to save it.

On March 2020, a public screening of the film was held at different schools in Baggao, Cagayan. A total of 789 participants watched the film and participated in the supplementary education campaign activities (lectures and eagle games). Based on the comparison of the test scores, there is an increase of 18% in the post-test as compared to the pre-test, which suggests learning gains among the students after the film-based campaigns.



WILD HEARTS DAY

In our pursuit of enriching the learning experience at the PEC, we created the holiday-themed event dubbed as the “Wild Hearts Day” last February 15. Events like this, helps us promote the cause by making it relatable to the public. We facilitated a special guided tour inspired by the love month that focused on the breeding behaviors of our Philippine Long-tailed Macaques, Estuarine Crocodile, Philippine Warty Pig, and the Philippine Brown Deer. Talks within the tour were given by our Animal Keeper and Veterinary Medicine interns from the University of Southern Mindanao. The Raptors in Flight also highlighted the Philippine Eagle’s and other raptors’ nesting and breeding behaviors.



Guests during the Wild Hearts Day at the PEC

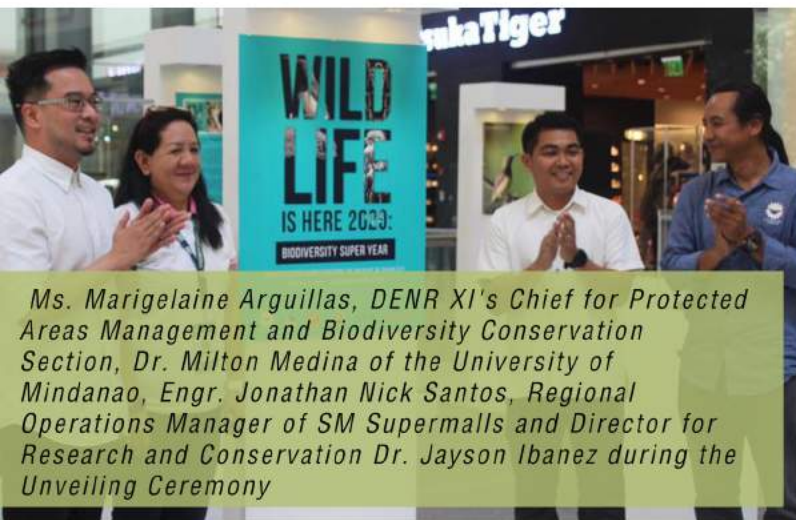
Promoting the PEC as first and foremost the only breeding facility for the Philippine Eagle in the world, we banked on the “love stories” of our Philippine eagle pairs and pairing attempt to spark interest online on the importance of our breeding eagles. The post generated over 500 interactions.

WILDLIFE IS HERE 2020: THE BIODIVERSITY SUPER YEAR!

We partnered with the DENR XI, University of Mindanao, SM Lanang Premier and the Whitley Fund for Nature for “WildLife is Here 2020: Biodiversity Super Year”.

On its third year, the event highlighted the critical relationship of wildlife and humans in achieving long-term, sustainable development.

The exhibit featured Davao Region’s and Bukidnon’s fascinating wildlife aimed to encourage Davaoeños to appreciate our natural treasures and to actively participate in protecting them. Taxidermy of specimens including the Philippine Eagle, Asian Palm Civet, and the Crested Goshawk were displayed, alongside posters of the Olive-backed Sunbird, Tiger Beetle, the Malayan Gem Butterfly, and the Hawksbill Turtle. Visitors also had the chance to identify different species of beetles and butterflies through a microscope. The interactive exhibit kicked off on March 3 in celebration of the UN World Wildlife Day and ran until March 8 at the Atrium of the SM Lanang Premier.



Ms. Marigelaine Arguillas, DENR XI's Chief for Protected Areas Management and Biodiversity Conservation Section, Dr. Milton Medina of the University of Mindanao, Engr. Jonathan Nick Santos, Regional Operations Manager of SM Supermalls and Director for Research and Conservation Dr. Jayson Ibanez during the Unveiling Ceremony

HATCHDAYS AT THE CENTER



Pangarap Hatchday Celebration



Forest Guards during the backback distribution

Celebrating hatchdays at the Philippine Eagle Center is an education initiative to introduce the Philippine eagle to students and guests through a fun learning experience. It is also an occasion where we promote the unique stories of the eagles in our care.

This year, Raptors in Flight was one of the featured activities that offered the hatchday participants a first-hand experience of watching the Philippine eagle and other birds-of-prey in flight. Aside from the flight demonstration, participants were engaged in storytelling and educational tour activities. We also celebrated the stories of the eagles at the Center through Keeper Talk and games. During Pag-asa's hatchday on January 15, guests explored the Center to look for clues that revealed his characteristics, favorite food, and parents' names.

The hatchday is also a chance to further our partnership with our Philippine eagle adopters for the benefit of our community. The anonymous adopter of Philippine eagle Mabuhay donated 100 backpacks to our partner community forest guards in four barangays in Davao City: Tamayong, Tawantawan, Tambobong, and Salaysay. Aboitiz Power Corporation the adopter of Pangarap sponsored her hatchday last February 24 that brought 50 students of Malagos Elementary School SPED, Gumalang Central Elementary School, and Baguio Central Elementary School to the PEC. Aboitiz staff also participated in the event as storytellers.

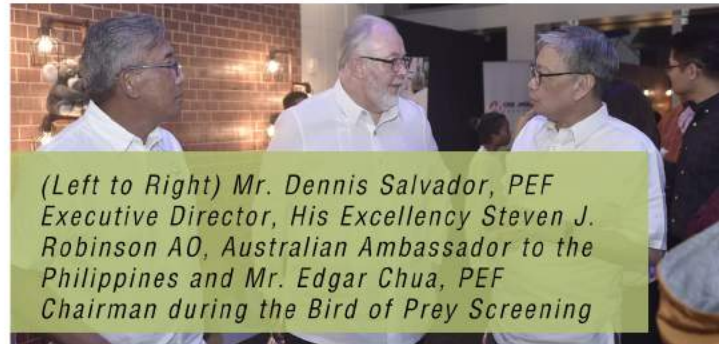




BIRD OF PREY SCREENING WITH THE AUSTRALIA GLOBAL ALUMNI

In celebration of World Wildlife Day, the Philippine Eagle Foundation partnered with the Australia Global Alumni and SM Supermalls for a charity screening of Bird of Prey. Held last March 3 at the SM Aura Premier in Taguig City, the event was attended by over 100 guests, including Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Steven J. Robinson, PEF Chairman Edgar Chua, and the Australia Global Alumni community. The event was also sponsored and attended by One Meralco Foundation, the JVA Group of Companies, Human Capital Asia, and Hijo Resources Corporation.

As the first alumni advocacy campaign of the Australia Awards and Alumni Engagement Program – Philippines, the event was meant to raise awareness on the current situation of the Philippine Eagle. The charity screening generated almost Php 150,000 from sponsorships, donations, and merchandise. These funds have since benefited the Indigenous Forest Guards in Mt. Apo by providing them with field gear and accident insurance, as well as supporting the livelihood projects of their families.



(Left to Right) Mr. Dennis Salvador, PEF Executive Director, His Excellency Steven J. Robinson AO, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines and Mr. Edgar Chua, PEF Chairman during the Bird of Prey Screening



His Excellency Steven J. Robinson AO Australian Ambassador to the Philippines with wife Rhonda and Dr. Jayson Ibañez, PEF Director for Research and Conservation

FUNDING PARTNERS

- Ayala Land, Inc.
- City Government of Davao
- Energy Development Corp.
- Insular Life Foundation
- Wildlife Reserves Singapore
- Whitley Fund for Nature

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Municipal Local Government Unit of Arakan
- Barangay Local Government Unit of Salasang
- DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Arakan)
- City Government of Davao (PSSCC, CENRO)
- DENR 11
- DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Davao)
- NCIP 11
- Provincial NCIP
- BLGU of Carmen
- BLGU of Tawantawan
- BLGU of Tambobong
- BLGU of Salaysay
- BLGU of Sibulan
- BLGU of Manuel Guianga
- BLGU of Sirib
- BLGU of Tamayong
- BLGU of Tungkalam
- BLGU of Eden
- BLGU of Catigan
- BLGU of Dalion Plantaton
- BLGU of Tagurano
- Protected Area Management Board for Mt. Apo Natural Park
- Pusaka Council, Sinabaddan Ka Sibulan

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Local Government Unit of Manolo Fortich
- Guilang-guilang Apo Datu Nanikunan Association Inc.
- DENR 10 -Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
- BLGU of Guilang-guilang
- DENR 8
- LGU of Ormoc City
- LGU of Baybay City
- LGU of Tacloban City
- LGU of Hilongos
- LGU of Burauen
- LGU of Maasin City
- LGU of Sogod
- LGU of Silago
- LGU of Hinunangan
- LGU of Taft
- Rotary Club of Tacloban
- Energy Development Corporation
- BCSP
- Visayas State University
- Provincial Local Government Unit
- DENR 2-PAMBCS
- DENR 2 CENRO of (San Mariano, Dinapigue, Tumauni)
- DENR 3
- Peñablanca Protected Landscapes and Seascapes
- Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park
- Mabuwaya Foundation

DONORS

- Anonymous
- Charity Camantigue
- Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines, Inc.
- Lakpue Drug, Inc.
- SM Lanang Premier
- Eco Explorations
- Where To Next

PH EAGLE ADOPTERS WITH RENEWED SUPPORT FOR 2020

- Allied Botanical Corp.
- Anonymous
- Elanco Animal Health
- Ariela Marketing Company, Inc.
- Mr. Uy Ching Siong Cang
- Mr. & Mrs. Kim and Felicia Atienza
- FDC Utilities, Inc.
- Phoenix Philippines Foundation, Inc.

NEW OTHER RAPTOR ADOPTERS

- Megatesting Center, Inc.

BIRD OF PREY SCREENINGS

- Australia Global Alumni
- SM Aura Premier
- Eden Nature Park and Resort
- Human Capital Asia
- One Meralco Foundation, Inc.
- USAID Protect Wildlife Project
- Central Mindanao University
- University of the Philippines Mindanao

ONLINE DONORS

- Alison Gavin
- Edward Cohen
- Lawrence Greenman
- Jody Genise Bartolome
- Joanne Nifras
- Katrina Regalado
- Kristine Cabanban
- Roselle Duman
- Matthew Co
- Wyndon Cantre
- Anthony Maddela
- Maris Abad
- NC Zoological Society
- Steve Marsho
- Teodulo San Juan
- Mary Ann Cruz Choco
- Dorothy Drysdale
- Karl Lyel Lim
- Aimee Celeste Cayan
- Inigo Acosta Acosta
- Rodel Joseph Fabella
- Graydon Peterson
- Jaxon Johnson

DONATE THROUGH:



Philippine Eagle
Conservation Program
Foundation, Inc.

BPI # 9441-0113-31



Philippine Eagle
Conservation Program
Foundation, Inc.

010990066754