Widespread hunting that aggravated the already harsh circumstances under which the slowly-reproducing Philippine Eagle raises its young in the wild has caused a rapid decrease in the eagle population over the years. In an effort to counter the high mortality rate, the Foundation launched a Conservation Breeding program that soon became one of the most successful in the world, producing 18 hatchlings (14 surviving) in a span of 12 years. The objective has been to rapidly propagate the species ex situ for future reintroduction to complement wild eagle populations. We had inched much closer to that goal in 2004, when captive-bred eagle Kabayan was released to the historical home of Philippine Eagles, Mt. Apo.

**Philippine Eagles**

**Experimental Release Project.** We worked closely with the Field Research team in the care and preparation of the eagle Kabayan for its release to the wild in April 2004. Preparations included the installation of a radio transmitter and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) microchip and health monitoring of the eagle in the days leading to its release. Our staff also gave valuable input for the construction of the temporary hack cage within the release site in Mt. Apo as well as in the planning and drafting of release protocols. More details on the Experimental Release may be found in a special section devoted to the project.

**2003-2004 Breeding Season.** Of the six eggs produced during the breeding season, only two hatched, with only one hatchling surviving. Geothermica, hatched on January 7, 2004, developed normally in its first year.

**2004-2005 Breeding Season.** Two Philippine Eagles were hatched within four days of each other at the Philippine Eagle Center in December. The first, Chick #17, was from eagle pair Princess Maasim and Tsai and made history as the heaviest hatchling recorded in the captive-breeding program at 163.6 grams while Chick #18 was the ninth offspring of eagle pair Ka Brianne and Jag. Table 1 summarizes the egg production for the year.

**Natural Pairs.** Princess Maasim and Tsai produced only one egg in the breeding season, which successfully hatched on December 14. The pair was expected to double clutch in December but this was arrested due to the disturbance in the adjacent private lot. Ka Brianne and Jag produced one infertile and one fertile egg within the season. The second egg hatched successfully on December 18, 2004.

**Imprint Eagles.** Junior, so far the most productive semen donor among the male imprint eagles, began producing semen as early as July. Unfortunately, no offspring was produced from artificial insemination in the breeding season. Jing-Jing also had sporadic semen production that may be attributed to its recovery from surgery to remove a malignant skin growth in late 2003. Pagkakaisa also had sporadic production, while Pag-asa was not able to produce semen at all in the 2004-2005 season.

Female imprint eagle Kahayag produced two eggs, the first one being fertile, though the embryo stopped to develop approximately 8-10 days in incubation. The second egg was also fertile, but also stopped developing at around 28-30 days. Pitha failed to produce any egg.

**Pairing Attempts**

To increase the Center's production potential, eagles of breeding age are paired. Male and female Philippine Eagles are first placed in adjacent enclosures for introduction. As soon as the breeding season commences, the Conservation Breeding team conducts continuous observation to check for breeding and aggressive behavior.
behavior towards each other, the pairing attempt will be aborted and either the male or the female will be replaced. On the other hand, when progressive breeding behavior such as nest-building and stick play are seen from both birds, either the male or the female will be transferred to its new partner’s enclosure and further observation will be conducted to ensure pairing success.

**Marikit and Arakan.** The enclosure partition separating the two eagles since October 2003 was finally removed on November 16, 2004, after positive responses were observed from both birds. The pair makes the third natural pair at the Center. Initial attempts at copulation were unsuccessful. Still, this stimulated the female enough to produce its first egg. Although that first egg was infertile, we are hopeful for the breeding prospects of this pair.

**Pangarap and Magiting.** Frequent sex vocals were heard from Magiting and both birds were occasionally observed doing nesting activities together. In September, the female produced its very first egg (though unfertilized), which indicated that it might have been stimulated by the male’s breeding activities. Pre-copulation attempts were also observed from the male.

**BGR and Bayani.** The pairing attempt for these birds was aborted on October 26, 2004 after both birds were seen exhibiting aggressive behavior towards each other.

**Bayani and Jean.** BGR was replaced with Jean for introduction to Bayani. So far, no aggression was seen from both birds, though no breeding activities were seen either.

**Admission.** On December 15, 2004, Kantilan, a male sub-adult Philippine Eagle recovered in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur was turned over with help from PEF Trustee Gen. William K. Hotchkiss III. The bird had a dried gunshot wound on its right breast, bruised and lacerated right eyelid and a *Trichomonas* infection at the time of admission. The eagle did not feed for three days after its transfer to the Center before it eventually fed on a live rabbit given on the fourth day. Complete recovery was observed after five days. X-ray examinations of the bird showed an airgun pellet embedded in its lower left breast, indicating that the pellet had traveled from its original entry point on the upper right breast. We did not see the need to have the pellet removed as it did not seem to bother the bird and so as to prevent further stress on Kantilan.

**Annual Checkup.** During the annual checkup conducted in the first quarter of 2004, PetiChip RFID microchips donated by Plaridel Products and Services were implanted on all Philippine Eagles (except for the chick Geothermica) as an additional identification tag for the eagles.

**Studbook.** The studbook for Philippine Eagles was finally completed within the year. This provides a complete record of all Philippine Eagles kept at the Center including information about each bird and the genealogy of eagles bred in captivity.

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### Table 1. Eggs and Eaglets Produced in the 2004-2005 Breeding Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Laid</th>
<th>Egg #</th>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Method of Fertilization</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/12/04</td>
<td>PE B04-087</td>
<td>Kahayag (F) and Junior (M)</td>
<td>CAI</td>
<td>Fertile. Egg did not develop further, ca. 8-10 days old only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/20/04</td>
<td>PE B04-088</td>
<td>Ka Brianne (F) and Jag (M)</td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>Infertile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/29/04</td>
<td>PE B04-089</td>
<td>Pangarap (F)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Infertile. No AI. No pair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18/04</td>
<td>PE B04-090</td>
<td>Kahayag (F) and Junior (M)</td>
<td>CAI</td>
<td>Fertile. Egg did not develop further, ca. 28 days old only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19/04</td>
<td>PE B04-091</td>
<td>Princess Maasim (F) and Tsai (M)</td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>Fertile. Hatched on 14 Dec. 2004. Chick#17.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/09/04</td>
<td>PE B04-093</td>
<td>Marikit (F) and Arakan (M)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Infertile. No successful copulation observed yet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Ken and Criselda Lao implant a PetiChip RFID microchip to Thor during the 2004 Annual Check-up.
Foodstock Update

**Disease Management.** Foodstock operations were badly hit with infectious coryza for most of the year, the probable cause of which was the exposure of our foodstock to wild and transient animals from the areas adjacent to the Center. On October 15, 2004, the Department of Agriculture obtained blood samples from our chicken stock to determine the cause of the outbreak. The results of the test revealed high titer readings, showing that our chickens were not combating bacteria but viruses. However, the outbreak was described to be low level since no mortality was reported. To prevent the spread of the virus, all the chickens, including the brooders and fatteners were burned on November 20, 2004. Only the breeder was left for egg production.

Newly hatched chicks were then given New Castle Disease (NCD) immunization on Day 1 with another shot on the 21st day. So far, the new chicks were found healthy. Close monitoring as well as adjustments in the infrastructure of the foodstock area to prevent the entry of transient animals were imposed to prevent another outbreak.

**Other Raptors and Animals**

**Breeding.** The following tables describe the breeding activity of other birds of prey in the Center.

### Table 2. White-Breasted Sea Eagle: Natural Pair: Mardie (F) and Dorio (M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Egg # (WBSE)</th>
<th>Date Laid</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-001</td>
<td>01/18/04</td>
<td>First clutch, first egg. Fertile. Embryo died probably 2 days before the egg was opened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-002</td>
<td>01/22/04</td>
<td>First clutch, second egg. Egg was lost from the nest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-003</td>
<td>02/16/04</td>
<td>Second clutch, first egg. Infertile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-004</td>
<td>02/19/04</td>
<td>Second clutch, second egg. Infertile.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3. Crested Serpent Eagle: Natural Pair: Rolanda (F) and Rics (M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Egg # (CSE)</th>
<th>Date Laid</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-003</td>
<td>04/12/04</td>
<td>Naturally incubated. Hatched. Died 3 days after.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4. Giant Scops Owl: Natural Pair: Ella (F) and Bebot (M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Egg # (GSO)</th>
<th>Date Laid</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-003</td>
<td>05/08/04</td>
<td>Third clutch; naturally incubated. Contaminated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5. Scops Owl: Natural Pair: Babes (F) and Tsok-Tsok (M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Egg # (SO)</th>
<th>Date Laid</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-002</td>
<td>01/30/04</td>
<td>First clutch, second egg. Fertile. Died unable to hatch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-003</td>
<td>02/14/04</td>
<td>Second clutch, first egg. Fertile. Contaminated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-007</td>
<td>03/30/04</td>
<td>Incubated naturally. Contaminated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Threats

During the survey, we had sightings of all three species of diurnal raptors that hunt inside the forest canopy (below 40 to 50 m), seven species that hunt within and above the canopy zone, and two species known to hunt in open areas. All species except the Chinese Goshawk (Accipiter soloensis) were residents. The raptors listed in this survey fall into three distinct groups:

1. Two species that hunt inside the forest canopy (below 40 to 50 m).
2. Seven species that hunt within and above the canopy zone.
3. Two species known to hunt in open areas.

**Survey of other Diurnal Raptors.** We found eleven diurnal raptors in our survey areas. We conducted two trainings, “Parabiologists’ Training” and “Research Collaborators Training,” in February and March 2004, respectively. A total of 16 local people residing near survey sites and 13 participating researchers were provided with basic knowledge on raptor research and management. Public consultations, information campaigns, and interviews were also conducted in 12 localities in three municipalities in Isabela province in preparation for field surveys.

**Philippine Eagle Survey.** Six of eight suspected Philippine Eagle territories in NSMNP were visited from March to September 2004 (see Table 1). We confirmed the presence of the species in Mt. Pangal, San Mariano, and Mt. Susong Dalaga, Dinapigue. In April, a breeding pair with young, about 14-16 months old, were seen in Mt. Pangal. Since then, two field visits were conducted to follow the breeding chronology of the pair and to compile notes on juvenile behavior, movements, and dispersal. In Mt. Susong Dalaga, one eagle and an abandoned nest were sighted.

The threats on the Philippine Eagle and its habitat within NSMNP were also presented at the year-end meeting, evaluation, and planning in October 2004. During the meeting, intervention programs and institutional tasking were done to address those threats. The three-year Philippine Eagle Research and Conservation plan and expected project outputs were also presented.

**Survey of other Diurnal Raptors.** We found eleven diurnal raptors in our survey areas (Table 2). All species except the Chinese Goshawk (Accipiter soloensis) were residents. The raptors listed in this survey fall into three distinct groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area/survey date</th>
<th>Threats</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Susong Dalaga, Brgy. Disulap, San Mariano</td>
<td>Hunting and timber poaching</td>
<td>This area was the capture site of a Philippine Eagle named Lingling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Pangal, Brgy. Casala, San Mariano</td>
<td>Timber poaching</td>
<td>A breeding pair was confirmed in this area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Susong Dalaga, Brgy. Bucl Norte, Dinapigue</td>
<td>Hunting and the area is under PATECO logging concession</td>
<td>One Philippine Eagle sighted in this area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dibulo Falls, Brgy. Dibulo, Dinapigue</td>
<td>Hunting and the area is under PATECO logging concession</td>
<td>Might be a part of the territory of the Philippine Eagle in Mt. Susong Dalaga.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Diwago, Dik-dikan, Dinapigue</td>
<td>Hunting and the area is under LUZMATHIM logging concession</td>
<td>Might be a part of the territory of the eagle in Mt. Susong Dalaga.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Sapinit, Divilican</td>
<td>Not visited</td>
<td>Not a priority area for intervention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumaulini</td>
<td>Not visited</td>
<td>Not a priority area for intervention.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Though the introductory meetings, capacity building of local partners and Philippine Eagle surveys in the first year of the project were successfully completed, the withdrawal of funding by the Royal Netherlands Embassy to KKP’s Sierra Madre initiative led to the project’s early termination in October 2004. We are currently looking for potential funding partners to sustain what we’ve started in this area. We believe the Sierra Madre eagle project is a critical element for managing the Philippine Eagle population over the long term.

**Conservation Research On The Endangered Philippine Eagles And Biodiversity Archiving And Assessment Projects For The Eastern Mindanao Corridor**

Preparations for the implementation of two new projects began in 2004, including the preparation of proposals and consultation with our funding partner, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

The Eastern Mindanao Corridor (EMC) is a large, continuous mountain range along the eastern coast of Mindanao containing one of the few remaining large forest blocks on the island. A survey in...
and mapping the location of eagles equipped with transmitters, we answered through radio and satellite telemetry studies. By tracking questions, as well as other important information, shall be through time must also be ascertained. All of these research types to another is also unknown. How population numbers change, How eagles use the habitat, whether they prefer certain habitat Philippine Eagles are highly territorial but the sizes of territories as Philippine Eagles In Central Mindanao

Home Range, Habitat Use And Mortality Rates Of Philippine Eagles In Central Mindanao

Philippine Eagles are highly territorial but the sizes of territories as well as the total area they cover when foraging remains uncertain. How eagles use the habitat, whether they prefer certain habitat types to another is also unknown. How population numbers change through time must also be ascertained. All of these research questions, as well as other important information, shall be answered through radio and satellite telemetry studies. By tracking and mapping the location of eagles equipped with transmitters, we occupied breeding territories as well as provide ideas and insights to the population structure of this highly endangered forest raptor.

Results. Initial trends in data gathered from six birds tagged since 1998 indicate that forest fragmentation dictates the size of foraging areas for adult eagles. We found that they are often forced to traverse vast distances over wide barren landscapes to forage on isolated forest patches, resulting to an artificially expanded home range. Whether or not these areas are still part of the territory strictly defended from other individuals or are merely foraging areas visited in random remains unknown.

As for the juveniles, data suggests a preference for forest edges and strong nest site fidelity seems apparent. Mortality in the wild also appears high as hypothesized, and humans, through hunting or trapping, had a hand in these deaths. It is becoming apparent that eagles can be lost even before their habitats are degraded. One important hypothesis that needs to be tested regarding juveniles is whether young eagles survive until adulthood to reproduce and contribute to the population. High juvenile mortality spells doom for the eagle population because not enough birds will be available to replace old and dying individuals. Radio tagging and monitoring of additional individuals from different breeding territories in Mindanao holds the key in addressing these most pressing conservation issues.

Table 2. List of diurnal raptors found in NSMNP and their corresponding hunting pattern. (1= Brgy. Disulap, 2 = Brgy. Casala, 3=Brgy. Buca Norte, 4 =Brgy. Dibulo, 5= Dika-dikan, 6= Brgy. Reina Mercedes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Hunting pattern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haliaeetus leucogaster</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pernis ptilorhynchus</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pernis celebensis</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accipiter virgatus</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accipiter solensis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spilornis cheela</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pithecophaga jefferyi</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hieraaetus kieneri</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spizaetus philippensis</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microhierax erythrogenys</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falco peregrinus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1998 showed at least 12 potential eagle territories within the range. The project will study the area and ecological requirements of the eagles there and use such information as basis to delineate and set aside important wildlife sanctuaries and watersheds with the help of local government units and resident communities.

The Biodiversity Archiving project will gather biodiversity, landscape and land cover data for the EMC over a span of two years. Such information will then be mapped and analyzed using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to prioritize and delineate protected areas within the EMC. Biodiversity data will also be used as a basis to delineate management zones within the protected area. Declaration of large forest habitats as Protected Areas is an important initial step in the conservation of biological resources.

Table 3. List of known Philippine Eagle nesting territories under the Adopt-a-Nest program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date Visited</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>So. Mitondo, Brgy. Sibulan, Davao City</td>
<td>Feb. 4-5, 2003</td>
<td>2-mo old eaglet and a juvenile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 27-28, 2004</td>
<td>Incubating an egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So. Minlanaw, Brgy. Calabugao, Malaybalay, Bukidnon</td>
<td>Nov. 9-10, 2004</td>
<td>Incubating an egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So. Lampong, Brgy. Upo, Maitum, Saranggani Province</td>
<td>Nov. 15-17, 2004</td>
<td>Nest abandoned; pair may be have relocated nest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Philippine Eagle Foundation and the DENR-PAWB collaborated in 1999 to implement the first long-term radio-telemetry program on the rarest and most endangered eagle in the world, the Philippine Eagle. Entering its fifth year, the program has slowly but constantly yielded valuable information on the species’ spatial and movement patterns, juvenile dispersal, survival and habitat use. The program also aims to determine the degree of overlap between occupied breeding territories as well as provide ideas and insights to the population structure of this highly endangered forest raptor.
**Field Research Program**

The eagle Kabayan was transferred to its hack cage in the forests of Mt. Apo on March 30, 2004 for acclimatization and adjustment to the new environment. Kabayan was released three weeks later, on April 22, with several monitoring teams composed of Foundation staff and volunteers waiting in several stations around the release site to track the direction of the bird. The research proceedings and findings of the Experimental Release Project are described in more detail in a special section for the project.

**Conservation Research On The Endangered Philippine Eagles At The Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park In Isabela, Luzon**

The project sought to document the ecology and behavior of eagles in Luzon, which for many years has remained unstudied. The immediate goal was to locate the eagles and find active nests to observe the breeding behavior and food habits of eagles. Eagle studies are focused on nests where eagles tend to be rather sedentary and thus, can be closely observed and monitored at will. Efforts to preserve habitats are also concentrated on nests (which eagles use repeatedly) to ensure successful breeding. Two nesting territories were identified this year.

In partnership with Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas (KKP) and the DENR, the “Research and Conservation of Philippine Eagles in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP)” project was initiated in October 2003, to run until 2006. The goal of the project was to learn more about the Philippine Eagles at NSMNP to benefit not only the species but also park management itself. For the first year of project implementation, the objectives were: 1) to do a systematic survey of eagle pairs to identify nest or nest sites, 2) to build capacity for eagle research and conservation among collaborators and local parabiologists, and 3) to strengthen public sympathy and support through public education campaigns.

The first year of the three-year project focused on addressing the many biological questions that will provide the basis for hands-on management of eagles in the wild. We fulfill this by gathering data on the reproductive success, nesting density, home ranges, population, habitat use, and other aspects of the eagles’ biology in Mindanao and other islands.
Radiotelemetry was also a major component of the Experimental ith the technical know-how to assist the Field Research team during radio-tracking and long term monitoring of tagged birds.

Nest Verification And Breeding Status Assessment

**Sitio Mitondo, Barangay Sibulan, Davao City.** On the visit to the first of two nests in Mitondo, a two-month old eaglet was sighted as it was being fed by the female. Surprisingly, a juvenile eagle was also seen in the area showing particular interest to the food fed to the nestling. Whether this eagle was from the previous breeding season is still unclear. During the visit to the second nest, an egg from the same breeding pair was found. Instructions were given to the nest finder to observe the nest for developments. The fate of the nestling and juvenile eagle observed early in the year is unknown.

**Sitio Minlanaw, Barangay Calabugao, Malaybalay, Bukidnon.** The breeding area in Sitio Minlanaw was also nurturing a Philippine Eagle egg. The nest finder was instructed to check on the egg and the breeding pair’s status occasionally and update the Foundation of any developments.

**So. Lampong, Brg. Upo, Maitum, Saranggani Province.** No egg nor Philippine Eagles were found during the visit to the known nest at Sitio Lampong.

PEF conducts telemetry studies to know more about the eagles’ habitat and behavior.

**Funding Partners**

PEF volunteers assist the Field Research Team in monitoring eagle Kabayan. PEF’s pool of volunteers were mostly students and were trained in data gathering using radio-tracking techniques.
Center-based Education

We conduct trainings and orientations, lectures, film shows, guided tours, in-house education activities, exhibits, falconry and raptor displays at the Philippine Eagle Center all year to help develop public understanding and appreciation of the eagle and wildlife in general. Our audience is varied, from the widely curious 4-year-olds of provincial pre-schools to the veteran professionals and businessmen on vacation from various parts of the country.

We also aim to move our visitors from being mere spectators to active conservationists by encouraging them to volunteer their time and services to fulfill the various needs of our animal wards and to further advance the Foundation’s work as well. Not only do we ease our manpower needs, but we also effectively expand the base group with which the cause of preserving the Philippine Eagle can advance.

2004 saw the separation of the Conservation Education arm from the Advocacy and Extension Services arm of the Foundation.

Visitor Traffic

An 11.4% increase in visitor traffic was observed in 2004 with 121,465 individuals coming into the Philippine Eagle Center as compared to 2003’s figure of 106,926 visitors.

As has been consistently observed since 2001, March, June and July continue to be lean months at the Center while the last quarter of the year is the time where we experience the most number of visitors coming into the Center.

One important observation was the correlation of the number of visiting pre-school and kindergarten students to the number of adults visiting the Center. Although teachers usually accompanied the group during field trips of students at this educational level, each student was found to have at least one parent with them during the trip. This observation contributed to the planning of parent-child education modules for use in the Center in 2005.

Two hundred seventy-nine schools made the Center their destination for their education tours. Of these, only 72 schools were Davao City schools.

Visitor services were improved in 2004 starting with the permanent installation of the raptor display and falconry areas originally created for the 2004 Philippine Eagle Week celebrations in June.

Mindanao, a 3-year-old Philippine Eagle as well as a Philippine Hawk Eagle, Serpent Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Brahminy Kite, White Bellied Sea Eagle, Giant Scops Owl and Scops Owl were placed on stumps, while reticulated pythons in the PEF animal collection were exposed to the public more often. The new display techniques, including the falconry activities with our Philippine Hawk Eagles, afforded the visitors a closer look and more intimate encounter with the animals, which in turn created better learning opportunities.

The Education Center was also greatly improved with the installation of air-conditioning units obtained through the support of nine members of the House of Representatives who pooled funds to support the various education projects of the Foundation. The grant also included the purchase of new equipment to refurbish the Audio-Visual Room. Construction also began for the conversion of the existing biodiversity exhibit room into a Children’s Discovery Room, an interactive-learning room that also includes fiberglass replicas of different animals and full-color display panels showing information on the Philippine Eagle.
New items at the gift shop were introduced within the year, including a few items from partner communities in known eagle nesting areas. A total of 10 consignors currently supply the shop with various gift items even as invitations to new consignors are always being made to further expand the product range.

Open Classroom Project

The interactive Open Classroom Project is a fun and livelier way to teach biodiversity conservation in the open environment of the Philippine Eagle Center. Through the OCP, environmental values are inculcated through the games and education activities that participants enjoy. The long-term goal of the Open Classroom is to instill environmental ethics among the young generation so that they will grow to be responsible and caring leaders of our country. Five schools comprising a total of 186 students availed of the program in 2004. The Holy Cross of Davao College students assisted in the promotion of the program by funding the production and distribution of 1,000 OCP fliers to various schools and institutions in Mindanao. Ateneo de Davao University and University of the Philippines Mindanao also assisted in promoting the program during their information campaigns and exhibits.

PEF Volunteers and Interns

In 2004, 189 volunteers and interns were involved in the operations, maintenance and public education services of the Philippine Eagle Center, and the conduct of the major Foundation events like the Philippine Eagle Week and the Wow Mindanao Expo. Volunteers figured prominently in the conduct of the Experimental Release Project, providing crucial support to the field biologists for several months during the monitoring of the released eagle Kabayan. Interns were given specific workshops and hands-on training relevant to their course and practicum objectives. Ten schools and organizations also sent their students and members on a per-project basis or for a required number of hours throughout the year as a course or subject requirement to help ease routine workload of the PEF staff.

Applied Environmental Education Course (AEE Course)

The Smithsonian Institution, Environmental Education and Conservation Global, Khao Kheow Open Zoo, and The Zoological Parks Organization of Thailand sponsored the attendance of Education Manager Rein Navarro in the AEE Course offered in the Khao Kheow Open Zoo, Chonburi, Thailand from September 6 to 24.

Touch and Learn

Graphic artists and programmers Bong Segovia and Keith Bacongco were contracted to develop and execute interface design and animation for an interactive touch-screen module to be included in the new Children’s Discovery Room. By the end of the year, the project was at the final stage of voice recording and editing. High school volunteer, Jose Lorenzo Salvador, helped provide the voice over for the character “Kiko”.

Philippine Eagle Week

The 6th Philippine Eagle Week was celebrated on June 4-10, 2004 with the theme, “Kaugmaon sa Katawhan” (The Eagle’s Freedom, Our People’s Future). The 6th PEW highlighted the release of eagle Kabayan and the Foundation’s plans of reintroducing eagles to the

### Table 1. Visitor Traffic for 2004

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<td>Jan</td>
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<td>5,226</td>
<td>3,493</td>
<td>3,549</td>
<td>1,588</td>
<td>1,718</td>
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<td>3,909</td>
<td>2,806</td>
<td>2,726</td>
<td>2,140</td>
<td>2,451</td>
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<td>1,852</td>
<td>1,853</td>
<td>1,956</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>724</td>
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<td>904</td>
<td>1,408</td>
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<td>699</td>
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<td>1,062</td>
<td>1,733</td>
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<td>4,015</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>1,711</td>
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<td>2,601</td>
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<td>7,207</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>697</td>
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<td>Aug</td>
<td>6,084</td>
<td>6,478</td>
<td>1,797</td>
<td>1,163</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>1,025</td>
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<td>Sept</td>
<td>4,723</td>
<td>6,316</td>
<td>4,346</td>
<td>2,676</td>
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<td>3,304</td>
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<td>Oct</td>
<td>4,203</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>3,773</td>
<td>3,180</td>
<td>6,555</td>
<td>7,990</td>
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<td>5,268</td>
<td>3,579</td>
<td>4,748</td>
<td>2,526</td>
<td>4,133</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>14,152</td>
<td>10,880</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
<td>3,631</td>
<td>6,215</td>
<td>6,042</td>
<td>2,532</td>
<td>2,807</td>
<td>3,217</td>
<td>12,305</td>
<td>11,964</td>
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</table>

### Table 2. Comparison Between 2004 and 2003 Visitor Traffic

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Teens</th>
<th>Children</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>66,731</td>
<td>25,383</td>
<td>29,351</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
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### Table 3. Visiting Schools from Davao City and from the Provinces

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<tr>
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<th>Davao City schools</th>
<th>Provinces schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>98</td>
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### Table 4. Visiting Schools by Education Levels

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<th>Provinces schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
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<td>52</td>
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<td>College</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>64</td>
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### Table 5. PEW (June 4 to 10) Visitor Traffic (2003 vs. 2004)

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>3,394</td>
<td>1,328</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>1,221</td>
<td>1,178</td>
<td>8,768</td>
<td>9,290</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4,152</td>
<td>1,328</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>1,221</td>
<td>1,178</td>
<td>8,768</td>
<td>9,290</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants of the 2nd Philippine Eagle Fun Run pose with Jack, the White-breasted Sea Eagle after the event.
Other Activities

Hawk Walk Project. We worked with the City Government of Davao for the approval of the release of P500,000 for the construction of the Hawk Walk Facility at the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos. Preparatory activities were then under way for the actual construction. As a requirement prior to the release of funds, we also facilitated PEF’s application for accreditation by the city government of Davao. The application was approved by the City Council. Accreditation is a requirement under the rules of the Commission on Audit before a LGU could extend financial assistance to private organizations.

Mt. Apo PAMB. The PEF continued its involvement in the management of Mt. Apo through the extension of assistance in the drafting and review of the implementing rules and regulations of RA 9237 (Mt. Apo Protected Area Act of 2003).

City Development Council. The PEF represented by Advocacy Manager Lito Cereño sat as the committee chairperson on the environment under the Social Development Committee of the City Development Council (CDC). The CDC serves as a watchdog on the formulation and implementation of the development programs of the City of Davao.

Publications. We participated in the drafting of a story on the Teachers’ Training project funded by Canada Fund. The project was included in Canada Fund’s book series on project success stories entitled “Tatlong Dekada, Sari-Saring Istorya”.

Mid-2004, the Advocacy and Extension Services arm began functioning independently of the Center-based education program. This was done to streamline operations between Center-based education and the more outward, field-oriented scope of advocacy work where the audience includes local government units, schools, grassroot communities, indigenous peoples, and other linkages all over Mindanao.

While still functioning as an education arm directed towards communities and the general public, much of advocacy work is also geared towards paving the way for the implementation of various Foundation projects in known eagle areas. We help facilitate the preliminary meetings that serve to introduce the Philippine Eagle as well as the Foundation to audiences who may not have heard of the eagle nor the PEF before. We have the critical task of presenting our cause and winning the support and consent of local communities, especially their leaders, before any project action could be done.

Advocacy And Extension Services

Cotabato Community-based Resource Management and Multistakeholders Covenant for Effective Environmental Management Project

We coordinated with the Community-based Initiatives team in the implementation of the Cotabato CBRM project funded by EcoGov by providing assistance in the drafting of enforcement strategies for effective forest protection.

The project organized a series of conferences on environmental management, protection and conservation of natural resources in Cotabato Province. The goal of the conference series was to build confidence among various stakeholders in addressing common concerns in effective environmental management, with emphasis on law enforcement. Comparative reviews of existing legislation and a sharing of experiences in enforcement strategies provided the baseline information in the crafting of a conservation agenda for the municipality of Arakan, where a Philippine
Eagle nesting site is situated. To date, we have facilitated an initiative for the formulation of the implementing rules and regulations for Municipal Ordinance No. 12 declaring three major forest fragments as protected areas. Other project partners include the provincial government of Cotabato, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the academe, business sector and other civil society organizations.

**Experimental Release Project**

We helped ensure the social acceptability and safety of the eagle Kabayan during the experimental release in Mt. Apo. In preparation for the release of the eagle, we spearheaded the conduct of community dialogues and consultations to promote understanding of the rationale and objectives of the project, obtain local support and ensure the safety of the eagle. This was done in the barangays within the 10-kilometer radius of the release site. Six months after the release in April, another round of campaigns was organized to reinforce public understanding, especially in areas that eagle Kabayan was expected to explore.

**Gaynawaan Project**

In support of the implementation of the Gaynawaan project in Arakan, we assisted in the conduct of community consultations to encourage local cooperation in achieving the project objective of establishing forest corridors to connect the existing forest islands in the area.

**Eastern Mindanao Corridor Project**

The PEF, with the support of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), conducted consultation workshops in six provinces of Eastern Mindanao for the implementation of a conservation project in the area known as the Eastern Mindanao Corridor, one of the last remaining large forest blocks on Mindanao island. The primary goal of the consultation was to establish linkages with the local government units (LGU), the DENR and the Protected Areas Management Board (PAMB) for the implementation of the project. The proposed initiative was welcomed and favorably endorsed by the LGUs and other sectors. The proposed project was regarded highly beneficial in consolidating efforts among various stakeholders in pursuit of biological resources conservation within the EMC.

**Teachers’ Training**

Proposals for the continuation of the Teachers’ Training project were prepared and submitted. The project seeks to integrate wildlife education into the school curriculum, starting with a nationwide training program for teachers. The proposal continues to be circulated and remains unfunded.
Experimental Release Project

A s a prelude to the future goal to release captive-bred eagles to suitable and vacant forest habitats, the Philippine Eagle Foundation, the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Protected Area and Management Board of Mount Apo Natural Park (PAMB), and the Philippine National Oil Company-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) collaborated to implement a Philippine Eagle Experimental Release Project.

The constant production of captive-bred eagles gave us an opportunity to initiate an experimental release that allowed us to observe behavioral responses of released birds, train and build confidence of personnel on scientific observations and test release methods and protocols, or simply learn from mistakes. The results of the experiment would dictate the direction of future experimental releases and, in the long run, of full-blown reintroductions. An experimental release was also seen as a tool to magnify the importance of forest conservation for greater awareness and education among Filipinos.

While release and reintroduction of captive-bred individuals to increase the wild population of endangered species have been done successfully in other countries, this project marks the first of its kind in the Philippines. We relied much on the reintroduction experience of our partner, the Peregrine Fund, and based our release protocols on those used by the Peregrine Fund in their release program for the Harpy Eagle, which closely resembles the Philippine Eagle.

The project involved primarily the Conservation Breeding and Field Research programs, as the release required knowledge from both the captive rearing of Philippine Eagles and observations on their behavior in the wild. The Education team was critical in the conduct of an extensive information and education campaign to obtain the consent of and prepare communities within a 10-kilometer radius from the release site for the presence of Kabayan in the area.

The captive-bred Philippine Eagle Kabayan was released on April 22, 2004 in the PNOC's Mindanao Geothermal Production Field within the Mt. Apo Natural Park. The release was a well-attended event, with Presidential Daughter Luli Arroyo, the family of Kabayan's benefactor Vice President Noli de Castro, Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun, and Energy Secretary Vince Perez present. Over 50 members of the local and international media covered the release, making the event one of the most publicized in PEF history.

Results

Hacking Stage

The hacking stage pertains to the period prior to release when Kabayan was allowed to adjust to the new environment. On March 30, he was transported to Kidapawan City from the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City for transfer to a hack cage (or hack box) constructed within the release site to serve as a substitute temporary nest. Hack attendants observed the bird from a blind a few meters from the cage, from dawn till dusk.

Behavioral Response. It took less than an hour for Kabayan to be at ease inside the hack cage after transfer. During the first week, most of his time was spent preening or transferring from perch to perch perhaps in his confusion about the frequent calls of loud insects in the area. At the onset of the second week, he increasingly performed wing/flapping exercises and play behavior. He also appeared already accustomed to the sound of the cicadas and no longer transferred perches when they called.

Post-release

The post-release stage involved following the eagle's movement after leaving the hack box on April 22. This was done through direct observations with the help of a transmitter strapped to the bird's back. The transmitter had radio and
satellite components that allowed both real time tracking and a view of his movement pattern every eight days.

Satellite readings were taken in the United States every eight days for eight hours while three telemetry stations, strategically located within and around PNOC, took bearings every 15 minutes using the signals sent by the radio transmitter. The location of the bird was then estimated through triangulation. Direct observations were recorded in the same method used during hacking. Teams composed of PEF, DENR and PNOC staff as well as volunteers were deployed to different stations throughout the implementation of the project.

**Key Events and Observations.** Aggression to other individuals of his kind, which is a normal interaction between unmated eagles, was observed with *Kabayan*. He encountered wild Philippine Eagles thrice, the first of which occurred in September. While he was at perch, the intruding eagle dove towards him, throwing him off his perch. They locked talons and cartwheeled in mid-air. After they separated, *Kabayan* hid inside the forest while the other eagle eventually flew away. This eagle was believed to be an older female as deduced from her size and plumage.

The second encounter occurred in the feeding area in October. The other eagle came as *Kabayan* was plucking the supplemental prey. This time, the eagles had no physical contact. The intruding eagle, however, was able to steal *Kabayan*’s food. The third and last encounter happened in November in the same area as the first incident. Though there was no physical contact, the intruding eagle chased after *Kabayan*.

The encounters, though unexpected, were not at all a total surprise. Records show there are at least seven known nesting territories in the whole of Mt. Apo, with the PNOC release site located between two adjacent territories. It is suspected that this eagle (or eagles) is either a surplus, unpaired bird or a paired adult that wandered beyond its home range. These interactions with other eagles certainly helped *Kabayan* adapt to being a wild bird and would have helped him in eventually becoming totally disinterested in humans and seek his own kind.

*Kabayan* also showed an instinct to hunt wild prey. He took on two adult male Long-tailed Philippine Macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) on December 5, 2004. Observers saw several exchanges between *Kabayan* and the macaques, with *Kabayan* making several attempts to attack and the macaques retaliating by charging the eagle and violently shaking the tree it was perched on in an effort to drive the eagle off. The eagle was unable to capture the macaques, but the incident was a significant learning experience that showed *Kabayan*’s progress towards learning to hunt on his own.

The eagle attempted to hunt since the first week of the release but it was only until September that a successful hunt was confirmed. His attempts became more frequent with time, his play behavior associated with hunting increased, and his choice of prey progressed from small items like lizards, to rodents, small birds and eventually long-tailed macaques. There were attempts on domestic animals too. Though *Kabayan* failed to catch either cat or dog and there has been no documentation of Philippine Eagles in the wild preying on domestic animals, *Kabayan*’s choice to practice on them was not at all surprising. It is expected from juveniles like *Kabayan* to choose the easier prey. Unfortunately, in an area like the PNOC, the easier prey are domestic animals because they are found in open areas.

*Kabayan* provided supplemental evidence that Philippine Eagles do spend time on the ground. This preoccupation to explore the ground may be a manifestation of an instinctive behavior typical of wild birds, whose documented prey base include ground-dwelling species such as rodents, snakes, pigs, and deer. Several incidences of eagles ending up in noose traps base for pigs and deer can also be an evidence of an active ground habit. *Kabayan*’s choice of staying near the road or landslides was possibly dictated by the ease of detection of small prey items like rodents and lizards offered by this open habitat.

*Kabayan*’s stay in areas regardless of the presence of humans provided validation that young eagles are naturally naive to humans. Past researches and PEF experience with trapping young eagles indicate that eagles about the same age as *Kabayan* tend to tolerate humans at a close distance. Though *Kabayan* was generally tolerant of humans, there were instances when he swooped down on them which may be a form of play or a declaration of territoriality. In an attempt to induce fear on the bird without harming him, he was flushed from these areas using loud sounds.

**Significant Learnings in Protocol.** Unlike released Peregrine falcons and Harpy eagles which returned to the hack box for a period of time before eventually becoming independent of it, *Kabayan* never returned to the hack box after his release. This development significantly influenced monitoring protocols. *Kabayan*’s behavior could possibly be accounted for by his age. At 17 months at the time of his release, *Kabayan* was already able to fly well enough to travel a considerable distance from the hack box as compared to peregrines.
which were released before they can fly too well but could fly well enough to take off from the ground. We are planning to release a bird younger than Kabayan to know if the same pattern of fidelity to the hack cage as observed in Harpy eagles and peregrines is also true for Philippine Eagles.

Several telemetry stations and observation posts were prepared, although they were gradually abolished as Kabayan settled in a specific area.

**Supplemental Feeding**

Food was provided as a supplement to the released bird while he honed his hunting skills. This simulates wild eagles providing food for their young until the juvenile leaves their home range. Supplemented prey given to Kabayan were either guinea pigs or rabbits placed in designated areas at around 4am, while it is still dark, taking care that the bird did not see the observers setting the prey item.

Several treatments were involved in the supplemental feeding, involving a combination of three factors: placement of prey (hoisted, tethered, free-roaming), frequency of feeding and choice of feeding area. Treatments changed in response to the bird’s behavior but always with the intent of helping him hone his hunting skills. The first feeding scheme was to place a prey item on top of his hack box on a daily basis. This was quickly abandoned when, as mentioned, Kabayan never returned to his hack cage after the release. Several more permutations on the supplemental feeding were applied before we found what seemed to be most effective.

The final supplemental feeding method was to place live rabbits or guinea pigs to roam in a fenced off area with a trench, thereby greatly increasing the level of difficulty of the hunt. Kabayan’s food ration was increased from 300 grams (as was given to Kabayan while at the Philippine Eagle Center) to 500 grams of food daily. The food was increased to cope with Kabayan’s increased energy needs due to the increase in physical activity. The frequency of feeding was adjusted from a three-day period - intended to force the bird to look for food in between feedings - to a daily schedule when observations on the bird indicated that his limited hunting skills had made his attempts unsuccessful and left him weak and starved.

This supplemental feeding method both stimulated Kabayan to hone his hunting skills, while providing him with the energy to explore his new home and pursue other prey.

**Staff Training and Experience**

Overall, the Experimental Release Project provided the PEF staff and project collaborators with invaluable experience, being the first teams in Asia to ever conduct a release. The hacking stage provided the staff with an opportunity to master the ethogram with their close observation of Kabayan while the post-release stage honed their skills in radio-telemetry techniques so much so that their sensitivity to the smallest inflections in signal was greatly sharpened. The months of monitoring added to the researchers’ confidence in recognizing the behavior, flight profile and vocals of the Philippine Eagle and other raptors present in the release area.

**Summary and Conclusion**

The experimental release has so far been the only venue for learning in preparation for reintroductions. Since there is no recognized protocol for releasing Philippine Eagles, established protocols for releasing other raptors were used as templates and modifications were made to custom fit the protocol for the Philippine Eagle. Though not all questions will be addressed with just one experiment, several lessons were already learned in terms of protocol adjustment. These lessons should be validated for their effectiveness through more experimental releases. The only way to validate what was been learned so far is to conduct another experimental release and put all claims and lessons learned to the test.
The Gaynawaan Project, funded by the United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility/Royal Netherlands Embassy Small Grants Programme, seeks to establish large, contiguous habitats that are more conducive to supporting wildlife by creating forest corridors to connect the remaining forest islands of Mindanao.

The project works on the premise that though there are still a few remaining forested areas on Mindanao, these are highly fragmented and because of their small size, these may not be able to fully support animal and plant populations over the long term.

With the help of key stakeholders in the target areas, the project aims to plant patches of trees about one kilometer wide between Mt. Sinaka, Mt. Mahuson and the Kabalantian-Binoongan Complex in what has been called the Arakan Valley Conservation Area (AVCA). The interconnection of these three forest systems is expected to allow movement and dispersal between plant and animal populations and generate agro-forest and timber products as a livelihood source for the communities in these areas.

The project is a landmark of sorts, as a pioneering work in Mindanao at least, with the project at its experimental stage.

The Gaynawaan Project is undertaken jointly by the Field Research team, which handles the biodiversity profiling and planning of the forest corridor location, and the Community-based Initiatives team, which is responsible for interfacing with the stakeholders in the project areas. The project was submitted as an entry to the World Bank Development Innovation Marketplace in January 2004 and won a two-year grant.

Key activities in 2004 included introductory and consultative meetings with stakeholders and the preliminary biodiversity profiling for the target areas.

Field Research

Researchers from the academe, government and the PEF studied the profile of the vertebrate species found in the three mountains - data which will be used to come up with a suitable corridor design and conservation framework.

Biodiversity Survey at Mt. Mahuson, Mt. Sinaka and Binoongan Range

Bird diversity. Sixty-two species of birds were recorded at Mt. Mahuson, 74 species at Mt. Sinaka and 50 species at the Binoongan range from the surveys conducted in the three areas (Table 1). Of the

Community-based Initiatives

Seminars on biodiversity, gender sensitivity, policy advocacy, the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act (IPRA), and paralegal training were held to boost the capability of partner people’s organizations (PO) in the area. The partnership of the Kabalantian Indigenous Peoples Partnership for Development Association (KIPPDA), the Barangay Environment and Natural Resources Association (BENRA) and the Manobo community of the Panguandig Lumadnong Panaghiusa (PALUPA) was obtained for the implementation of the project.

The support of various tribal communities along the corridor route, including those of farmers in the Integrated Social Forestry program, were also gained through the conduct of community consultations in which apprehensions about the forest corridor were addressed. Local government units, line agencies and the concerned tribal associations later attended a Multi-stakeholders Conference to orient them on and gain their support for the forest corridor establishment.
Table 1. Number of bird species in the Philippines, in Mindanao, and the survey at Mt. Mahuson, in Mt. Sinaka range and in Binoongan Range

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>Mindanao</th>
<th>Mt. Mahuson</th>
<th>Mt. Sinaka</th>
<th>Binoongan Range</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>All species</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippine endemic</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Threatened species</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

102 endemic species in Mindanao, about 33% were found in Mt. Mahuson, 39% in Mt. Sinaka and 28% in Binoongan.

Three endemic species of hornbills found in Mindanao were all recorded in the surveys (Tarictic hornbill, Writhed hornbill and Rufous hornbill). The Cream-bellied fruit-dove, endemic to the Philippines but previously unrecorded in Mindanao, was seen at Mt. Sinaka. The Black-headed tailorbird, on the other hand, which has been recorded in Mindanao though apparently confined to Eastern Mindanao (in Agusan, Surigao and Eastern Davao provinces) and Siargao, was also found in Mt. Sinaka and Mt. Mahuson.

Mammalian diversity. Of the 70 species of bats recorded in the Philippines, 21 species were found in the three survey sites, nine of which (about 43%) are endemic to the Philippines. *A. jubatus*, which was recorded in Mt. Sinaka is listed as endangered in the Red Data Book. *H. fischeri*, observed at Mahuson and Sinaka, on the other hand, is listed in IUCN as vulnerable.

The terrestrial mammals found in the three survey sites included squirrels, mice and rats, pigs and deer. The deer and pig were observed at Mt. Mahuson while the squirrel was observed at Mt. Sinaka. Mice and rats were found in the three sites.

Amphibian and Reptile diversity. There were 18 species of amphibians found in Mt. Mahuson (55% are endemic), 24 species in Mt. Sinaka (55% are endemic), and 11 species found in Binoongan (27% are endemic). Thirteen species of reptiles were found in Mt. Mahuson (46% are endemic), 17 species were found in Mt. Sinaka but 4 species are still unidentified, and 10 species found in Binoongan (50% are endemic).

The endemicity levels of the four vertebrate groups surveyed are relatively high. Endemicity levels can be accurate indicators of habitat quality. Endemic species need undisturbed habitats to survive because of their long evolutionary association with pristine

Bat survey in Mt. Sinaka. Of the 70 species of bats recorded in the Philippines, 21 species were found in the three Gaynawaan survey sites, nine of which are endemic to the Philippines.

Figure 1. Map showing the corridor routes connecting Mt. Sinaka and Mt. Mahuson.
forests. If these habitats are altered, endemic species may become extinct either because of the loss of food and breeding places or because of competition with or predation by commensal or introduced species (Rickart 1993).

**Survey and delineation of corridor routes at Mt. Mahuson to Kabalantian-Binoongan Forest Strips.** The target sites for the establishment of the forest corridors are degraded areas beside streams and rivers. The prime goal is to revegetate streamsides to create corridors for native animal and plant dispersal.

Survey and delineation of target reforestation sites started at the Mamag River in Mt. Mahuson. Garmin GPS was used to mark the sites. A 500-meter distance from both sides of the river was delineation was plotted on the topographic map (see figure 1). A total of 25 to 30 kilometers of land were surveyed including areas along the Mamag, Tinanan, Napungan and Matigol rivers and extending to the Binoongan forest strips.

**Community Profiling and Interview.** A total of 305 respondents, chosen based on the location of their farm lots and residences, were interviewed for socio-economic profiling. Lot owners and residents near the banks of the Mamag, Tinanan, Napungan and Matigol rivers were singled out for interviews since they will be the expected beneficiaries for the restoration and rehabilitation of the corridor routes.

### Table 2. Barangays through which the proposed corridor routes pass

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Barangay</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sto. Niño, Valencia</td>
<td>73</td>
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<td>Ganatan</td>
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<td>Meocan</td>
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<td>Tumanding</td>
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<td>Allab</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>305</strong></td>
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</table>
The Community-based Initiatives (CBI) program seeks to empower communities in known eagle sites in managing their environmental resources to address both their own human needs and the needs of wildlife, including the Philippine Eagle, with which they share the forest.

The PEF has been working with communities for over a decade, in response to the need to preserve wildlife habitats as a long-term solution to the degrading conditions of the Philippine environment. We work in partnership with people’s organizations, usually resident indigenous tribes, in bringing about protection and rehabilitation measures for the few remaining forests and homes for the Philippine Eagle.

We believe that these communities are the best stewards for these forests as they have been living in these lands for generations. Thus, we work with these communities usually within the framework of their ancestral domain claims, extending to the eventual drafting of their Ancestral Domain Management Plans. Sustainable agriculture and forestry, complemented with livelihood programs, are the other key elements to the program.

In August, the Municipality of Arakan awarded a special citation to the Foundation in recognition of our work in conserving eagles and forests while assisting communities in the Arakan Valley area. The Bukidnon and Arakan Valley areas in Mindanao continue to be the areas of focus for the implementation of these programs. More community-based work is currently being planned for the protection and conservation of the Eastern Mindanao Corridor, the island’s last contiguous large rainforest ecosystem.

**UNDP-PEF Gaynawaan Project**

We coordinated closely with the Field Research team for the implementation of the Gaynawaan Project, which seeks to create forest corridors in the Arakan Valley Conservation Area. The project began in the first quarter of the year. We were primarily responsible for working with partner people’s organizations in the execution of project plans. We successfully engaged three organizations for the implementation of the forest corridor project. More details on the Gaynawaan Project may be found in the special report.

**Arakan Community-based Resource Management (CBRM) for Forest Corridor Development Project**

With the support of the Foundation for the Philippine Environment, the Arakan CBRM project works with Manobo communities in the initial level of a forest corridor management plan that served as a preparatory phase for the Gaynawaan Project. The first phase of the project began in January 2003. We work with the Kiapat Mahuson Lumadong Panaghiusa (KIMALUPA), Panguandig Lumadong Panaghiusa (PALUPA) and the Kiandang Farmers’ Association (KFA) for the implementation of the project. The project aims to build the capacity of Manobo communities to manage and protect their resource base in the context of their ancestral domain claims.

**Community Organizing and Institution Building.**

KIMALUPA was successfully registered with the SEC in September 2004 as a necessary step towards building their capability for efficient and effective organizational and ancestral domain management.

Drafting of the organizational and financial manual for all three partner organizations was initiated and pending completion. Translation of the Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) into the Manobo dialect was completed. The partner organizations themselves successfully passed several proposals and resolutions for the improvement of the community. These proposals resulted in the creation of two day care centers and the initiation of construction of a new barangay road (awaiting funding).

**Resource Management.**

Maintenance of the four
Sustaining Ancestral Domain Management Initiatives for Biodiversity Conservation for BUHITA (SADMIBCB) Project

The SADMIBCB project was approved by DAI-EcoGov for implementation from November 2003 to September 2004. It sought to sustain the initiatives of the PULWIN project, with focus on the development of BUHITA as an organization and provision of additional support for BUHITA’s CADT application.

The May 2004 national and local elections significantly influenced the implementation of the SADMIBCB project. Barangay and sitio tribal council meetings were conducted to assess the pulse of the IP communities and determine which candidates would be supportive in the processing of their CADT, as well as in the eventual management of their ancestral domain.

Training on Agro-forestry and Enterprise Development was conducted for the BUHITA staff last June 27-29, 2004 at Datu Mansalalang Farm, Bukidnon. One of the outputs of the training was the drafting of the Abaca Marketing Strategy for BUHITA, which, if implemented, could prove invaluable to the sustainability of the organization.

Five hundred pieces of BUHITA information materials were printed for distribution to active leaders and members. An IEC campaign was also conducted for the stalled validation process of the NCIP for BUHITA’s CADT applications. Additional adjacent communities and sitios also filed respective resolutions to the NCIP for inclusion in the BUHITA CADT area.

hectares of fruit-bearing and forest trees continued while preparatory activities began for the conversion of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC) into a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) in Kiapat and Panguandig. Stakeholders expressed their support for the project and community meetings also helped resolve conflicts within the CADC area. A petition to deputize identified Bantay Cubat volunteers was also submitted to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) for review.

Livelhood. To provide livelihood support to our partner communities, a feasibility study was conducted to test the viability of engaging the tribal women in the production of handicrafts. The study found that raw materials such as romblon and pawa grass were readily available and with proper support through the provision of skills and management trainings, the economic well-being of the communities may be enhanced. A proposal for funding for production is still under review. A support fund for vegetable production was also released to the three partner organizations.

Advocacy. A Multistakeholders’ Conference was conducted in April to foster understanding and encourage dialogue to address issues and concerns with the project. The conference was attended by representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), municipal and barangay-level local government units (LGUs) and the tribal communities. A second conference was held in December, in deference to the official announcement of the lineup of LGU executives and officials from the May elections.

Care and Maintenance of Tree Nursery and Assisted Regenerated Seedlings. The project employs an assisted forest regeneration strategy, where seedlings that grew naturally in the forest are transplanted to revegetate barren areas adjacent to Mt. Mahuson. Transplant started in the last week of July and continued to the end of August in the pre-identified locations along the forest edges. The tribal communities found the strategy effective and efficient, guaranteeing a higher probability of seedling growth with less cost and materials.

Overall, a total of 20,000 fruit tree seedlings were gathered and transplanted along forest edges. Fruit trees and fodder plants also planted a total of four hectares of grassland adjacent to Mt. Mahuson. Other sites targeted for planting were the individual farms of the tribal members living in the two ancestral domain areas.

Multistakeholders Conference. Small group meetings were held in lieu of the third Multistakeholders Conference in the months of June and July, in deference to the official announcement of the lineup of LGU executives and officials from the May elections. It was agreed that to pursue tangible law enforcement mechanisms for environment management and protection, it would be crucial to assist the LGU in formulating implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for local ordinances on conservation. The one identified most encompassing and serving the objective of conserving the critical environment area in Cotabato Province was the Municipal Ordinance #12 (Series of 1994) of Arakan, declaring Mt. Sinaika, Mt. Kimamulig, Kabalantian-Binoongan-Kulaman Valley Forest Strip and sitio Aguila as the Arakan Forest Reservation and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Cotabato CBRM and Multistakeholders Covenant for Effective Environment Management Project

The Cotabato CBRM project aims to improve forest cover in the ancestral domain and important mountain ranges of the Manobo tribe in Cotabato and gain the support of stakeholders at the municipal and provincial level for the enforcement of laws and local policies governing environmental management and conservation. The project began in October 2003, under the continuing grant support of Development Alternatives Incorporated-EcoGovernance (DAI-EcoGov). The project essentially complements on-going efforts of the PEF to rehabilitate the Arakan Valley Conservation Area.

Cantt and Boro tribemen, through the Cotabato CBRM project, have started in the last week of July and continued to the end of August in the pre-identified locations along the forest edges.
We sought the permission of the newly installed local chief executives and officials to form a committee to lead and facilitate the formulation of the IRR for the ordinance. The permit was granted and to date, the executive order defining the expected output is being drafted. We also sought the support of the Paglilingkod Batas Pangkapatiran Foundation (PBPF) for legal assistance and protection efforts in Arakan Valley and Cotabato Province.

Pulangi Watershed Integrated NGO-PO Community-based Resource Management Project (PULWIN-CRMP)

The PULWIN-CRMP project, geared towards the establishment of self-reliant and self-sustaining communities in the six upland populations of the eastern Mt. Tago-Kiamo-Manumino corridor in Bukidnon, ended Phase 1 (Formation Stage) in May 2004 and entered into Phase 2 (Strengthening Stage) in August 2004. Funded by the Foundation for the Philippine Environment, the project aims for the partner communities to eventually manage conservation projects for the Pulangi watershed area on their own under their Ancestral Domain Management Plan. The PEF partners with the Bukidnon Higaonon Tribal Association (BUHITA) for the PULWIN project.

At the year-end assessment, it was found that kaingin farming, unsustainable agricultural practices and timber poaching remained as the top three threats to the Pulangi watershed, specifically in the forests within the ancestral domain.

Completion of PULWIN Phase 1 Year 3.

Within the three years of the project’s initial phase, BUHITA had advanced well from being an infant organization to one that showed growing confidence and clout in handling matters that affected the tribe, with tribal leaders occupying seats in various local development bodies in the barangay, city and provincial levels.

BUHITA remarkably and consistently advocated and lobbied for the processing of their CADT applications and was thus placed on priority status by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the approving body on ancestral domain claims. CADT processing was, however, suspended due to the May elections and the subsequent expiration of the terms and new appointments of NCIP commissioners. Funds for the purpose were still not received by NCIP-Bukidnon although this was expected to push through after the May elections.

Maintenance work on the three consolidated community seedlings nurseries, four sustainable agriculture-agroforestry demonstration farms and 21 hectares of reforestation continued. Bantay Kalasan (Forest Protection) Committees were also formed in the 14 communities. Through the conduct of regular meetings and patrols, illegal logging activities, slash-and-burn farming and forest encroachment were significantly reduced, if not stopped. A Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation (BIOME) site was also established in the forest of Talahidan Range, Caburacanan, Malaybalay City.

Maintenance continued for the 5,000 hills (approximately 12 hectares) planted with abaca as a supplemental means of livelihood for the community. Strategies to boost production to cope with the high market demand were also formulated, though a study on additional livelihood activities was also found necessary.

Further training and guidance in financial resource and project sustainability management, in which BUHITA’s capacity was still
limited, were to be included in the next phase of the project.

**PULWIN Phase 2 Year 1.** Validation and finalization of BUHITA’s CADT application documents kept the project team and BUHITA staff and leaders occupied at the start of the second phase of the PULWIN project. The claim documents were finally completed and signed by the BUHITA Council of Elders and it is expected that the CADT will be finally issued to BUHITA by March or April 2005.

BUHITA leaders continued to actively participate in various local development bodies, most notably the recently-organized indigenous peoples (IP) Provincial Consultative Body (PCB) that represents the seven IPs in Bukidnon and serves as the consultative arm of the NCIP on matters of interest to the IP communities.

Unfortunately, the peace and order conditions continued to deteriorate particularly at the areas of Freedom, Silae, Can-ayan and portions of Mapulo. Recent skirmishes between the New People’s Army and members of the Dela Mance clan resulted in a number of casualties and mass evacuations. Project activities in these areas were suspended, including the perimeter survey and validation of CADT boundaries in Freedom, and some abaca farms and reforestation sites were abandoned.

**Network and Advocacy**

We attended the First National Environmental Justice Forum at University of the Philippines Los Baños in November. PEF Project Officer Elfranco Linsahay was also able to participate in the exposure trip to the oil palm plantations in Sumatra, Malaysia in October 2004. We also helped in the organization of the 6th National Watershed Management Assembly conducted last November 24-26, 2004 at the Kaamulan Folk Arts Theater, Malaybalay City. Over 200 participants from all over the country attended the conference organized by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Bukidnon Watershed Protection and Development Council (BWPDC), in which PEF sits as member.

**Participation in Local Governance for Biodiversity Conservation**

LGU accreditation is a key requirement before an LGU could provide assistance to our efforts. The Foundation was accredited by and thus enjoy the support of the LGUs of Bukidnon, Malaybalay City and Cabanglasan, Bukidnon. We also maintain memberships in the Malaybalay City and Cabanglasan Development Councils, Technical Working Group of the Malaybalay City Kibalabag Watershed Project, and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Bukidnon Watershed Protection and Development Council (BWPDC).

**Summary of CBI Experience and Formulation of Protocol**

A survey of CBI projects implemented since 1990 was initiated to evaluate progress made so far, determine future strategies and draft a CBI protocol. This was done through consultations made with leaders of people’s organizations, LGU officials, other NGOs, and PEF staff.
Events and Exhibits

Kadayawan Festival. We joined two activities connected with Davao’s Kadayawan Festival celebrated from August 16-22. At the First Alternative Book Fair, PEF books and publications were sold at the Book Fair held in the Ateneo de Davao University. Among the titles sold were two research papers on Philippine Eagles and bird species in Davao Oriental and Davao Province. This marked the first time that results of PEF research work were reproduced for sale. At the Mindanao Festivals Expo, we put up a booth featuring the stuffed eagle Diola, eagle artifacts, photos and on the opening day and the weekends of the expo, live animals for interaction with the public. PEF was considered by visitors and organizers alike as a main attraction at the Expo.

WOW Mindanao. This Department of Tourism-organized event showcased Mindanao and what it had to offer to the country and the rest of the world. We brought in live animals in a pavilion shared with the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). PEF received a good amount of publicity because of the 17-day event and was highlighted as a must-see by DOT Regional Director Sonia Garcia.

Media and Networking

We continued to work closely with various media agencies in the dissemination of information on Foundation projects and developments. The eagle release in April generated a considerable amount of local and international publicity for the Foundation. Davao’s Kadayawan Festival in August also brought in a large number of media contingents to the Philippine Eagle Center. In late 2004, Davao City radio station Mom’s Radio gave the PEF an hour-long slot once a month on their “Mother Nature” talk show, while DXRP also featured the Foundation as a regular guest.

The website hosted for free by Digilution was redesigned by Teresa Ishiki of Art Unlimited and maintained by Associate Communications Officer Tatit Quiblat (left) and DOT Regional Director Sonia Garcia (right).

Memberships and Linkages

We were consulted heavily and maintained close coordination with various personalities and bodies, most notably Davao City councilor Leo Avila, in the conduct of various animal rescues throughout the year.

We were also involved in the following bodies:

- Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Board
- Mt. Apo and Mt. Kitanglad Protected Area Management Boards (PAMB)
- Barog Kalikupan Dabaw (BARKADA)
- Mindanao Environment Forum (MEF)
- Bukidnon Watershed Council
- Regional Council for Sustainable Development
- Wildlife Conservation Society of the Philippines (WCSP)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Conservation Breeding Specialist Group
- Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network (ARRCN)
- Southeast Asian Zoos Association (SEAZA)
- Asian Regional Network of International Zoo Educators (ARNIZE)
- World Working Group on Birds of Prey (WWGBP)
Trainings and Seminars
## GRANTS

- Marubeni Energy Services
- The Peregrine Fund
- Foundation for the Philippine Environment
- Development Alternatives Inc. USAID EcoGovernance
- Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
- Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas
- United Nations Development Programme
- Global Environment Facility
- Royal Netherlands Embassy Small Grants Programme
- City Government of Davao
- Philippine National Oil Company Energy Development Corporation
- Vice-President Noli de Castro
- Mr. Samuel J. Butcher
- President Corazon C. Aquino
- Walt Disney Company Foundation
- Ford Motor Company
- Zoo de Doue

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Hon. Gilbert Remulla, 2nd District Representative, Cavite
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Hon. Joel Villanueva, Partylist Representative, Citizen’s Battle Against Corruption
Hon. Eileen Ermita-Buhain, 1st District Representative, Batangas

## ADOPTION PROGRAM

**Pag-aso Support Fund:**

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<td>Kapayapaan</td>
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<td>Caltex Philippines</td>
<td>Ellen Therese</td>
<td>Till 2006</td>
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<td>Pilipinas Shell</td>
<td>Arakan</td>
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<td>February 2004 - February 2005</td>
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<td>Taka o Sukuukai</td>
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The Philippine Eagle Foundation is a private, non-profit organization that relies on voluntary contributions to operate. We are grateful and honored to be associated with these individuals, organizations, foundations, and business entities whose financial support sustains our programs and makes it possible for our wildlife and their habitat to flourish.

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<td>College Level</td>
<td>Regular Individual: Janet Jimenez Tejada, Aliw Cabling Vives, Melody Lianko Castaneda, Magnolia Musni Paulino, Joy Delgado Bachiller, Jennifer Manansala, Irene Hortaleza Beltran, Emerine Adame</td>
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- Unifrutti Philippines
- DENR-XI
- Davao Citihardware
- Davao Central Chemical Corporation
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- Ah Fat Seafoods Plaza
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- Shanghai Restaurant
- AMESCO
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- Twin Pines
- LM Junior Metalcraft
- Tenny Enterprise
- Lachi’s
- Legaspi Oil Company
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- Digital Interface
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Your support fuels and sustains our work. We understand that every donor has many choices where to extend his/her assistance. We truly value your partnership with us and we work hard to ensure that every peso is put into direct action to attain concrete results.

We continue to request our friends and partners to update your pledges and annual contributions to guarantee the sustenance of our crusade to save our Great Philippine Eagle.
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