



PHILIPPINE E

(*Pithecophaga jefferyi*)

The Crown Jewel of Philippine Biodiversity



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

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



The female Philippine eagle is sexually mature at age five (5), the males at seven (7). The female lays only one (1) egg every two (2) years. Nests, measuring 1-2 meters wide, are built on large trees usually found along steep slopes and ravines. Both parents take turns incubating the egg for about 60 days. At 22 months, the young eagle leaves its parents' home and searches for its own territory.

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

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

Why do we need to conserve them?



The Philippine eagle is a national symbol for the rich Filipino heritage. Soaring high amidst all adversities, it epitomizes the Filipinos' tenacity and resiliency in overcoming all odds to achieve their goals and aspirations.

The Philippine eagle and other raptors regulate the population of smaller animals that can pose danger to humans (i.e. snakes) or cause damage to agricultural crops (i.e. rats). Their presence in forests is an ecological indicator of a rich and biodiverse environment.

Philippine eagle habitats can be utilized as ecotourism destinations when managed sustainably. They can be a great venue for bird watchers, hikers, and tourists to marvel at the beauty of this magnificent bird and other wildlife, while also providing livelihood for the local communities.

What can you do to help our Eagles?

The Magnificent Philippine Eagle

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an. Republic of the Philippines. The Office of the President, Manila. Under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The Philippine Eagle is a critically endangered species. It is found only in the Cordillera region of Luzon. The eagle is a symbol of the Philippines and is protected by law. The Philippine Eagle is a critically endangered species. It is found only in the Cordillera region of Luzon. The eagle is a symbol of the Philippines and is protected by law.