

Date:	Fri, 15 Feb 2008 12:24:00 +0800 (PHT)
Subject:	Re: Birds of prey: Philippines
From:	"Camille B. Concepcion"
To:	<ktes2008@yahoo.com>

1. What is your name? Camille B. Concepcion
2. If you have a job title, what is it? Field biologist and School-based education officer
3. What is the name of your organization and country? Philippine Eagle Foundation, Davao City, Philippines
4. Based on numbers, what would you say are the top 5 raptors in your area? Brahminy kites *Haliastur indus*; crested serpent eagles *Spilornis cheela*; white bellied sea eagle; *Haliaeetus leucogaster*; Philippine hawk eagle *Spizaetus philippensis*; grey headed fishing eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*
5. Are there any endangered raptors in your area? If so, which ones are they and why are they endangered? There are Philippine Eagles (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) around Davao City. They happen to be one of the most critically endangered eagles in the world. They are endangered because of habitat loss and human persecution through hunting.
6. Are there any programs in your area that help to protect raptors? If yes, briefly tell us what they are. Yes, there are programs that help raptors in our area. My organization implements most of these programs. We have a very intensive research program which is aimed at understanding the raptors, so that we can better know how to help them. We also have captive breeding program for these raptors, especially for Philippine Eagles. We also help rescue and retrieved captured raptors around the island of Mindanao.

We also provide programs for communities that live close to the rainforest and to Philippine Eagle territories. We help them lessen their dependence of forest products by providing them with livelihood and better agricultural knowledge.

We also have an education program which involves educating our visitors to the Philippine Eagle Center (which is where the rescued and captive bred raptors are), working with schools in the city and in the mountain, and promoting conservation and protection through exhibits across the country.
7. Is your organization funded by the government or private donations? If neither, from what source is funding received? We are a non-government organization that is funded

by private and corporate donations

8. Does your government recognize the importance of maintaining/improving the status of birds of prey? If so, in what way do they support it? Yes, our government recognizes the importance of birds of prey. They help us in all our projects by assisting us with permits that are necessary for us to continue our work. They also give us man-power support whenever necessary. There are also laws and policies that were established to protect not only our birds of prey, but our entire rainforests as well.

9. Do you have programs to educate the public? If yes, what kinds or please give examples. As I answered in # 6, we have an education program which is directed towards visitors of our Philippine Eagle Center. We also work with schools in the city. Currently, we also gave workbooks for 8 elementary schools in the mountains. These workbooks were especially designed to teach the school children about the environment. It is still in experimental phase so we have only selected 8 schools to receive the books for now.

We also have several exhibits and events that help promote conservation and protection, especially of the Philippine Eagles, which is also the Philippines' national symbol.

10. Is there anything else that you would like to share or comment on about raptors in your area? We need all the help we can get to protect them.

11. May we have permission to print this email interview on our website? Ok, but may I request to see it before it gets printed? [Emailed article 3/10/08]