

# Online plan to boost Philippine eagle numbers

February 28 2013

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A Philippine Eagle (*Pithecopaga jefferyi*) is shown at the Philippine Eagle Center, Davao City, in 2011. The mating rituals of two captive Philippine eagles are being broadcast live over the Internet to rally global support for saving of the world's rarest and biggest raptors, conservationists said Thursday.

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Livestreaming the pair gives a global Internet audience a rare insight into the courtship, mating and chick-rearing habits of the birds, which could soon become extinct, said Philippine Eagle Foundation spokesman Rolando Pinsoy.

"This will give everyone a chance to learn more about this species and understand why we have to save them," Pinsoy told AFP.

Customarily, the female lays a single egg in November or December and the chick hatches a month later, he said.

In a project backed by the US-based Raptor Resource Project and the Internet videosharing site Ustream.tv, the pair can now be viewed 24 hours a day over the next 12 months at [www.ustream.tv/recorded/29615691](http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/29615691)

"Even for [biologists](#), there is so much more that we need to learn about this species," Pinsoy said.

## The Philippine eagle

One of the world's rarest raptors



Hackles can spread out like a crown

Massive hooked beak

**Philippine eagle**  
*Pithecophaga jefferyi*

**Female**  
Height: 1 m  
Weight: 7.5 kg  
Wingspan: 2 m

**Male**  
Usually smaller in size  
Weight: 5 kg average

**Reproduction**  
• Birds pair and mate for life  
• Lay a single egg every 2 years

**Life expectancy**  
30-60 years

**Population**  
Around 180-500 mature eagles found in Luzon, Samar, Leyte, Mindanao

**Main threats**  
• Habitat destruction  
• Low reproductive rates  
• Mining activities/hunting/poaching

Classified as **critically endangered** in the IUCN Red List of threatened species

International trade and transport of the species restricted by CITES\*



\*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species  
Sources: Philippine Eagle Foundation, Animal Diversity, IUCN

AFP

Graphic fact file on the Philippine eagle, one of the world's rarest raptors. The mating rituals of two captive Philippine eagles are being broadcast live over the Internet to rally global support for saving of the world's rarest and biggest raptors, conservationists said Thursday.

The Philippine eagle, or *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, is the world's largest eagle in terms of length. It is found only in the country's vanishing forests, where hunting, logging and [land conversion](#) all threaten its survival.

The bird, with a distinctive shaggy and cream-coloured crest, grows to up to 3.35 feet (one metre) in length with a [wing span](#) of up to seven feet.

According to the foundation and the International Union for the [Conservation of Nature](#), there are only about between 180 to 500 pairs in the wild.

The two eagles involved in the livestreaming project have both been rescued from hunters, rehabilitated and paired, Pinsoy said.

They have regularly been producing chicks for the foundation's captive breeding programme near the southern city of Davao, he added.

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