

Endangered monkey-eating eagle hatched in Philippines

December 10 2015

The monkey-eating eagle

Philippine eagle: one of the world's rarest raptors

Population
Around 600 eagles in the wild, mostly in Mindanao

Food
Flying lemurs
Snakes
Palm civets
Macaque monkeys
Lizards
Bats
Cloud rats

Female	Male
Wingspan: 2 m	Usually smaller than female
Height: 1 m	Weight: 5 kg
Weight: 7.5 kg	

Reproduction

- Birds pair and mate for life
- Lay a single egg every 2 years


Main threats


- Habitat destruction
- Prey depletion
- Low reproductive rates
- Mining activities/hunting/poaching

Life expectancy
30-60 years

Status: **Critically endangered** (IUCN Red List)

Endemic to the Philippines





Pithecophaga jefferyi

Hackles can spread out like a crown

Massive hooked beak

Photo: Jay Directo

Factfile on the monkey-eating eagle, also known as the Philippine eagle. 135 x 96 mm

A monkey-eating eagle has been hatched in captivity in the Philippines, boosting the critically-endangered giant bird's fight against extinction.

Found only in the rapidly vanishing [tropical rainforests](#) of the

Philippines, the metre- (3.3-foot) long raptor gets its name from its diet of [macaque monkeys](#) and other [small animals](#) that share its habitat in Mindanao, the country's main southern island.

The chick, hatched at a conservation centre on December 7, was the first in two years and the 26th in 23 years, Philippine Eagle Foundation curator Anna Mae Sumaya said.

Barely a week old, the "very active" hatchling can already lift its head and responds to bird calls, Sumaya said.

"This chick will make it."

Also called the Philippine eagle, the bird is famed for its elongated nape feathers that form into a shaggy crest. Its two-metre wingspan makes it one of the world's largest eagles.

"This gives us hope that we can somehow supplement the Philippine eagle population," Sumaya told AFP.

The raptor is found nowhere else except the Philippines, where it is the country's national bird.

There are about 600 monkey-eating eagles in the wild and 34 others, including the hatchling, are kept in massive cages at the centre.

The Swiss-based International Union for the Conservation of Nature lists the species as "critically endangered", due to hunting and the depletion of its habitat.

Gunshots account for nine in every 10 Philippine [eagle](#) casualties according to the foundation, which has also warned it was running out of safe places to release the captive-bred birds when they mature.

The monogamous eagles breed only once a year, with each pair producing only one egg every [mating season](#).

There are four breeding pairs in the conservation centre. Two other eggs laid during this year's mating season were infertile and did not hatch, Sumaya said.

© 2015 AFP

Citation: Endangered monkey-eating eagle hatched in Philippines (2015, December 10) retrieved 24 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2015-12-endangered-monkey-eating-eagle-hatched-philippines.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.