

# Philippine Eagle rescued in Sarangani

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MANILA, Philippines – A juvenile Philippine Eagle, the country's national bird, was recently rescued by the municipal government in the forested upland village of Batian in Maitum, Sarangani.

The eagle, which was found to have an embedded pellet in its left groin, was taken to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Kiamba for assessment. It was subsequently brought to the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Davao City for rehabilitation.

Batian is within the 114,144-hectare Mt. Busa park, a priority conservation and protection biodiversity study area, and one of Sarangani's remaining forests.

Declared as a key biodiversity area and an important bird area in 2001, Mt. Busa harbors critically endangered, threatened, vulnerable and rare bird species.

Maitum Mayor Alexander Bryan Reganit said the rescue of the eagle attests to the town's good forest cover that must be preserved and protected as legacy to future generations.

The Environmental Conservation and Protection Center (ECPC) of the Sarangani provincial government has reported sightings of tarsier, wild deer, wild boars, monkeys, bats, civets and endangered bird species in the reservation.

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