

Philippine eagle rescued in Sarangani

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A juvenile Philippine eagle found in the forested upland village of Batian in Maitum, Sarangani was recently rescued by the municipal government.

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 DENR in Kiamba for assessment. It was subsequently brought to the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Davao City for rehabilitation.



Rescued juvenile eagle in Maitum, Sarangani / Credit: Local government of Sarangani / Manila Bulletin

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 which must be preserved and protected as legacy to the 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.

Straddling the towns of Maitum, Kiamba and Maasim, Mt. Busa is threatened by land conversion, kaingin (slash-and-burn), wildlife hunting, illegal logging, and mining.

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