

Appreciating Philippine Eagle Conservation for Fostering a Sense of Iyapayao Pride

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Abstract: News articles about sightings of the Philippine Eagle were posted in newspapers and in the internet. The sightings proved the new home of the largest bird of prey, the Philippine Eagle. This phenomenon made Calanasan and the rest of the municipalities of Apayao more aggressive in their campaign to protect the remaining forest of the Province.

As part of the campaign to appreciate the efforts done by the municipalities, this study was conducted to selected college students. The descriptive method of research was used with questionnaire as the main data gathering tool. News articles and video clips were used to foster appreciation on the conservation efforts done for the conservation of the Philippine Eagle and the establishment of sense of Iyapayao Pride.

Questionnaire on the level of awareness that the Philippine Eagle is conserved in Apayao was administered prior to showing them news articles and video clips. Results revealed that the respondents are moderately aware that the Philippine Eagle is conserved. After news bits and video clips were shown to them, their level of appreciation on the conservation efforts done by the province to protect the Philippine Eagle is very strong. A very strong sense of iyapayao pride was also established after knowing these efforts to conserve the Philippine Eagle.

Keywords: Philippine Eagle, Iyapayao Pride, Calanasan, Conservation, Level of awareness, Apayao Forests.

1. INTRODUCTION

The declining Philippine forest posed threats to various endemic floral and faunal species in the country[1]. Though already more than 85 to 90 percent of the original tropical forest disappeared because of legal and especially illegal logging,[2] the Philippines still have a natural environment which is the home for a very wide range of different birds. Many are to be found in most other humid tropical countries, some species are only to be found in this country. Of the (about) 400 species of birds in the Philippines, several are now very rare and a good number are greatly endangered[3].

One of the critically endangered Philippine faunal species is the Philippine Eagle[4]. The continuous loss of their habitat made them vulnerable to various hazards. Popularly known as the the “Haring Ibon” (King of Birds)[5], the Philippine eagle is endemic to Luzon, Leyte, Samar and Mindanao of the Philippine Archipelago. Scientifically known as *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, the Philippine Eagle is a tall, huge, broad-winged tropical forest raptor endemic to Luzon, Leyte, Samar and Mindanao islands of the Philippine archipelago [6, 7]. As a long-lived, late maturing, slow breeder heavily persecuted in a forest habitat that is rapidly disappearing, the Philippine Eagle is one of the world’s rarest and most highly threatened bird species .

The Philippine Eagle is a ferocious-looking bird stands over 3 feet (1 m) tall and can weigh up to 9 pounds (4 kg) — larger than a golden eagle. Bluish eyes, a large, sharp, curved beak, and a warlike headdress of spiky feathers, give the Philippine eagle a striking appearance[8]. Like most big predators, the Philippine eagle requires a large territory for hunting [9]. Philippine eagles also require the tallest trees, those which emerge above the rain forest canopy, for nesting. They have a very low reproduction rate, laying just one or two eggs each year. Aside from hunting, one of the major causes of their extinction is due to habitat loss. The declining forest cover is brought about by upland migration, logging and mining activities and urbanization.

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Apayao being one of the forested province in the country continuously provide a better habitat for the Philippine Eagle [10,11]. Sightings of their existence has been documented [12] (www.sunstar.com.ph, 2015) and circulated in newspapers and web publication.

This paper intends to touch the lives of Iyapayao college students by taking efforts to establish a sense of Iyapayao pride. George Lucas [13] emphasized that students' attitude and emotions need nurturing in the learning process. To teach is to touch lives [14] and that teachers should have the ability to shape students' future and initiate their metamorphosis into great future leaders [15]. One possible way to establish their patriotic sense is to make them proud of their home place.

The untiring effort of the province to preserve its lush nature's beauty gave an opportunity for Apayao to be promoted as one of the Ecotourist destination. Thus realizing its vision as the Prime Agroforestry and Ecotourist destination in the Far North.

Objectives:

Generally, this study aims to appreciate conservation efforts for the Philippine Eagle for fostering a sense of *Iyapayao* Pride.

The specific objectives are:

1. Determine the level of awareness on the conservation of the Philippine Eagle in Apayao among selected college students.
2. Determine the level of *Iyapayao* sense of Pride of the respondents after presenting video clips, news bits on the efforts to conserve the Apayao Philippine Eagle.
3. Compare posttest and pretest scores of respondents on sense of Iyapayao pride after they are exposed to news clips and videos on Philippine Eagle conservation in Apayao.

2. METHODOLOGY**Research Design:**

The descriptive survey method of research was used with questionnaire as data gathering tool.

Locale of the Study:

The researcher conducted the study at the Apayao State College-Luna Campus. ASC North Apayao campus is an extension campus of the college located at Luna, Apayao where the government center is located. The government center holds almost all offices of the different line agencies of the government such as the DENR, DA, DTI, DSWD, DOLE, NCIP, DAR and others.

Respondents:

A purposive sampling of 167 college students of the Teacher Education Department. They are purposely chosen because these are intact classes of the researcher. Beside, these respondents will be the future teachers wherein the imbibed values of protecting the environment and wildlife will be transferred to their respective students.

Research Procedure:

Before the session on appreciating the Philippine Eagle, the questionnaire on the level of awareness on the Philippine eagle conservation in Apayao and determining the level of Iyapayao pride were administered to the respondents.

To appreciate Philippine eagle conservation, news clips from <http://www.sunstar.com.ph>, and video clips (Philippine Eagle in the Wild from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gU4XhWJgvrY>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuIdlkZt2Aw>) were used. 2 Sessions were conducted for each group of respondents one for news clips and the other session for the videotape presentation. After each session, reflections were done as part of the processing mechanisms.

After the reflections, the questionnaire was administered on establishing the sense of Iyapayao pride was administered.

Research Instrument:

Questionnaire was used as data gathering instrument. The questionnaire is composed of three parts. First on level of awareness on Philippine Eagle(PE) conservation in Apayao consists of 16 items. The others are level of appreciation on

PE conservation on establishing the sense of Iyapayao Pride consists of 17 items. The first part of the questionnaire (level of awareness) was administered before video clips and news bits were presented to the respondents. After each presentation, the questionnaire on establishing the sense of Iyapayao pride was administered.

The questionnaire was designed after models by the researcher. This was validated by experts in the college. After validating the instruments, these were pretested to college students other than the respondents to see appropriateness of each statement in measuring the level of awareness on PE conservation and the establishment of sense of Iyapayao pride.

3. DATA ANALYSIS

The data gathered from the respondents were tabulated, computed and analyzed with the use of frequency counts and mean. The 5 point scale was used which is presented below.

Scale	Limits	Level of awareness	Level of appreciation/ Sense of Iyapayao Pride
5	4.20-5.00	Very much aware	Very Strong
4	3.40-4.19	Much aware	Strong
3	2.60-3.39	Moderately Aware	Moderate
2	1.80-2.59	Not much aware	Weak
1	1.00-1.79	Not aware	Very weak

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondents level of awareness on PE Conservation.

As early as 2000, sightings on the existence of the Philippine has been noted in Apayao. The first Philippine Eagle taken in captivity was done in Catablangan, Conner and name the eagle Ibarra after his captors . Later, sightings of the nesting Philippine Eagle has been noted in Calanasan and other parts of Apayao. There are unrecorded notes of their existence but it is evident in some short stories which passed on to generations. Local folks called them *banog*.

The researcher then conducted a research to determine level of awareness of college students on PE conservation in Apayao. The questionnaire was administered. The result is tabulated below.

TABLE 1. Level of awareness on Philippine eagle conservation in Apayao

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
Sightings of the Philippine Eagle (PE) is evident in Apayao	2.59	Not much aware
Philippine Eagle (PE) is conserved in Apayao	3.00	Moderately Aware
Local Knowledge contribute to PE conservation	3.39	Moderately Aware
Apayao has wide forest cover	4.31	Very much aware
The forest provide habitat to PE & other wildlife	4.40	Very much aware
The forest offers a variety of food for the PE	4.21	Very much aware
LGU legislate laws/ ordinances that protects conservation of wildlife	3.20	Moderately Aware
LGUs implement legislated laws/ rules on conservation	3.19	Moderately Aware
Indigenous People contribute to safeguarding the PE and other natural resources	4.43	Very much aware
The total log ban contributes much to PE conservation	4.43	Very much aware
Local communities abide the laws and rules formulated for the protection of natural resources	3.20	Moderately Aware
School and environmental enthusiast advocates natural resource conservation	4.22	Very much aware
ASC plays a role in biodiversity conservation	4.20	Very much aware
News clips are posted in the internet on PE sightings and conservation in Apayao	3.12	Moderately Aware
There are video clips posted in you tube on PE in Apayao	3.22	Moderately Aware
The Philippine Eagle foundation helps document PE existence in the province	2.19	Not much aware
Mean	3.30	Moderately Aware

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Seven items in the questionnaire has a descriptive rating of very much aware with mean ratings of 4.31, 4.40, 4.21, 4.43, 4.22, and 4.20 respectively. These items are: Apayao has wide forest cover; the forest provide habitat to PE and other wildlife; the forest offers a variety of food for the PE; indigenous people contribute to safeguarding the PE and other resources; school and environmental enthusiasts advocates natural resource conservation; and ASC plays a role in biodiversity conservation.

Student Respondents are not aware on items on sightings of Philippine Eagle is evident in Apayao and the Philippine Eagle Foundation documents the existence of PE in Apayao with mean ratings of 2.19 and 2.59 respectively. The overall mean rating obtained from the respondents is 3.30 which is describe as aware.

It is interesting to note that students are very much aware in as far as the forest is conserved in the province and that this provides habitat for wildlife such as the critically endangered Philippine Eagle and its food. Students are also very much aware on the role of the college in biodiversity conservation. the reason behind this is the aggressive information dissemination campaign of the college in attaining its unique vision as posted in conspicuous places, bulletin boards, flyers, and walls of the college.

TABLE 2. Respondents' responses on the level of Iyapayao pride

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
1. I am proud to be an Iyapayao	4.2	Very strong
2. I appreciate Iyapayao products	3.10	Moderately Strong
3. I am proud that Iyapayao forest are conserve	4.21	Very strong
4. News articles about conservation of PE in Apayao makes me proud	4.20	Very strong
5. I like posts shared about PE sightings in Apayao	4.22	Very strong
6. I am proud of the many beautiful spots in Apayao	4.20	Very strong
7. I love to hear that Apayao is the "Cordillera's Last frontier of Nature's richness	4.21	Very strong
8. I am proud that IPs use Lapat as nature conservation strategy	4.20	Very strong
9. I am proud of legislating lapat as conservation method	4.21	Very strong
10. I buy Iyapayao products	4.20	Very strong
11. I support conservation movements in the province	4.20	Very strong
12. I promote Apayao through posting in social media	4.21	Very strong
13. I promote PE conservation in the wild	4.20	Very strong
14. I share pictures and videos on Iyapayao forests	4.20	Very strong
15. I enjoy staying in Apayao	4.23	Very strong
16. Apayao will always be my home	4.23	Very strong
17. I am happy about news articles on PE conservation in Apayao	4.20	Very strong
Overall Mean	4.14	Strong

Respondents rated all items very strong sense of Iyapayao pride except for item number 2 which is moderately strong with a mean rating of 3.10. reason behind this is due to the limited production of locally produced products in the province. Aside from this, promotional activities is limited and the compliance to Bureau of Food and Drugs standards are not yet complied for food products produced in the province. The compliance to these requirements for manufacturers to be issued with license to operate (LTO) is not evident and that producers can not penetrate large market outlets such as Shoemart (SM) and other department stores.

However, respondents have very strong sense of Iyapayao pride in as far as natural resource conservation is concerned. These are manifested in items 3, 4,5,6,7,8, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 17. Likewise, the respondents have very strong sense of Iyapayao pride on Apayao as their home.

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Level of Appreciation on the Efforts for PE conservation:

After news clips and videos were shown to the respondents, the questionnaires for determining level of appreciation on the efforts for PE conservation and the establishment of Iyapayao Pride were administered. The data on level of appreciation is presented below.

TABLE 3. Level of appreciation on the efforts for PE conservation

Statement	Mean rating	Interpretation
Wide forest is protected in Apayao	4.8	Very strong
Local knowledge such as lapat protects PE	4.7	Very strong
PE is conserved in Apayao	4.8	Very strong
News clips / articles on PE sightings in Apayao are posted in newspapers	4.9	Very strong
Articles on protected PE in Apayao are posted in the net	4.9	Very strong
Philippine Eagle Foundation helps promote the existence of PE in Apayao	4.7	Very strong
Video clips are posted in the net	4.8	Very strong
LGUs & PLGU initiates protection of PE through implementation of laws/ordinances	4.8	Very strong
Overall Mean	4.8	Very strong

A very strong appreciation on the efforts for Philippine Eagle conservation is noted in all of the items in the questionnaire. Mean ratings ranging from 4.7 to 4.9 were obtained from the respondents after news clips and video tapes on PE sightings shown to them. The overall mean is 4.8 which means that students have very strong appreciation on the efforts done to conserve/ protect the Philippine Eagle in Apayao.

This implies that the news clips and video clips from the Philippine Eagle Foundation touched the hearts of the student respondents. The high rating made them proud of themselves. The existence of local knowledge such as lapat and the strong political will initiated by IP leaders gave an opportunity to establish and sustain Apayao as the new home of the Philippine Eagle.

TABLE 4. Respondents' responses on establishing the sense of Iyapayao pride

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
I am proud to be an Iyapayao	4.5	Very strong
I appreciate Iyapayao products	3.40	Strong
I am proud that Iyapayao forest are conserve	4.48	Very strong
News articles about conservation of PE in Apayao makes me proud	4.72	Very strong
I like posts shared about PE sightings in Apayao	4.33	Very strong
I am proud of the many beautiful spots in Apayao	4.25	Very strong
I love to hear that Apayao is the "Cordillera's Last frontier of Nature's richness"	4.79	Very strong
I am proud that IPs use Lapat as nature conservation strategy	4.66	Very strong
I am proud of legislating lapat as conservation method	4.32	Very strong
I buy Iyapayao products	4.33	Very strong
I support conservation movements in the province	4.33	Very strong
I promote Apayao through posting in social media	4.44	Very strong
I promote PE conservation in the wild	4.21	Very strong
I share pictures and videos on Iyapayao forests	4.55	Very strong
I enjoy staying in Apayao	4.54	Very strong
Apayao will always be my home	4.54	Very strong
I am happy about news articles on PE conservation in Apayao	4.66	Very strong
Overall Mean	4.41	Very strong

All items except appreciating Iyapayao products are rated very strong with mean rating of 4.5, 4.48, 4.72, 4.33, 4.25, 4.79, 4.66, 4.32, 4.33, 4.44, 4.21, 4.55, 4.54 and 4.66 respectively. The item on appreciating Iyapayao product is rated 3.40. This low rating attributed to the fact that Iyapayao products are not yet fully promoted due to lacking of some requirements such as BFAD license to operate (LTO).

The efforts done by the LGUs in conserving the habitat of the Philippine Eagle made student respondent proud of their homeland. This will instill in their mind, heart and soul. According to the Philippine News Agency (2016), Apayao residents take pride of its nature's richness as the provincial government of Apayao continue to implement measures and programs to protect its environment while promoting various eco-tourism sites to provide alternative livelihood and investment.

Last year, a live nest of the Philippine eagle was found in Calanasan town. There were also more sightings in Mt. Lambayo in Pudtol, and in Mt. Asi in Kabugao. To date, the Calanasan town government placed at least 25,000 hectares of its forests under the *lapat* system to ensure the protection and preservation of its flora and fauna.

For a giant raptor like the Philippine eagle, it takes about 13,000 ha of untouched forests as its exclusive territory, prompting the Apayao government to draft a long-term plan to ensure that this natural heritage is preserved for generations. (www.mb.com.ph)

TABLE 5. Comparison of the pretest and posttest sense of Iyapayao pride using t test

	Mean	Sd	t Computed value	t Critical value	Decision
Pretest	4.14	0.27	2.73*	1.69	reject Ho
Posttest	4.41	0.31			

*significant @ 5% level of significance

To determine if there is a significant mean gain from pretest to posttest on the level of Iyapayao pride after they are exposed to video clips and news bits on Philippine eagle conservation, the t-test was used. The computed t value is 2.73, which is greater than the critical value of t at 5% level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected, meaning a significant mean gain from pretest to posttest is attained.

This shows that exposing students to video clips and news article on Philippine eagle conservation strengthened sense of pride of their home place. Inspirational videos made them proud of themselves and the place where they belong.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, college respondents are aware of the conservation efforts done by the province in safeguarding the Philippine Eagle. As a result of appreciating the conservation efforts on the Philippine eagle a very strong sense of Iyapayao pride is established.

In the light of the findings, the following are forwarded as recommendations:

1. Craft other forms of materials / literary pieces/ flyers/ etc. to promote the existence of Philippine Eagle in Apayao.
2. Conduct the study to high school and elementary students.

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