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SENATE

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P. S. Res. No. 588

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED MASSIVE POACHING OF MIGRATORY AND ENDEMIC BIRDS IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INTENSIFYING CONSERVATION EFFORTS AMONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO ALLOW BIRD POPULATIONS TO FLOURISH

Whereas, Sec. 2 of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act states that, “It shall be the policy of the State to conserve the country's wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainability”;

Whereas, Sec. 27(f) of RA 9147 further states that “It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully and knowingly exploit wildlife resources and their habitats: collecting, hunting or possessing wildlife, their by-products and derivatives”;

Whereas, the Philippine archipelago has an astounding mix of more than 600 species of resident and migratory birds, of which almost 200 species are endemic;¹

Whereas, the East Asian Migratory Flyway that includes the Philippines is one of the most important shorebird and waterbird migratory flyways in the world, with a total of 77 species of migratory birds using it;²

Whereas, examples of common migratory birds found in the Philippines are egrets, sandpipers, terns, black-bellied plovers;

Whereas, in January 2011, it was reported that the number of migratory birds that come to Candaba Marsh in Pampanga to rest has declined as compared in the 1980s due to vanishing wetlands and indiscriminate hunting or poaching;

Whereas, hunters, farmers, and watersports also threaten Paoay Lake, another wild bird habitat in the far north of the Philippines that is close to southern China;

Whereas, the Baras Bird Sanctuary in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat, where herons and egrets of diverse breeds converge, is increasingly threatened because of poaching problems;

Whereas, besides the declining number of migratory birds, the survival of rare and unique birds endemic to the Philippines are likewise being threatened due to poaching;

¹ <http://www.birdwatch.ph/html/gallery/gallery1.html>

² http://www.oneocean.org/ambassadors/migratory_birds/obst/migratory_birds_in_search_of_a_refuge.html

Whereas, more than 200 Philippine birds are included in the World Conservation Union's red list of critically-endangered species, including the Philippine Cockatoo, the Negros Fruit-Dove and our national bird, the Philippine Eagle, considered by some experts as the largest eagle on earth;³

Whereas, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said there are just 180-500 mature Philippine eagles in Mindanao, Luzon, Leyte and Samar islands, with forest loss and poaching the main threats to their survival;⁴

Whereas, an Asian Waterbird Census conducted in 2005 placed the number of Philippine ducks (*Anas luzonica*) at only 4,428;

Whereas, there is urgent need to implement strong conservation efforts in keeping with the mandate of the Wildlife Conservation Act: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported massive poaching of migratory and endemic birds in the Philippines with the end in view of intensifying conservation efforts among local government units to allow bird populations to flourish.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator

³ <http://www.wildlifeextra.com/go/news/philippine-hunting376.html#cr>

⁴ <http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=680529&publicationSubCategoryId=63>