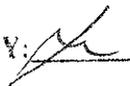


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S E N A T E

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON MEASURES TO PROTECT
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES UNIQUE TO THE PHILIPPINES AND TO
FORMULATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS INCLUDING BIOSECURITY AND CAPTIVE
BREEDING TO PREVENT THEIR EXTINCTION

Whereas, Section 16 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that, “The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature”;

Whereas, of the 40,168 species that scientists in the World Conservation Union have assessed, one in four mammals, one in eight birds, one in three amphibians, one in three conifers and other gymnosperms are at risk of extinction¹;

Whereas, the estimate of rate of extinction is 1,000 to 10,000 times the background rate or 2.7 to 270 species being erased from existence everyday²;

Whereas, the causes of extinction are:

- a.) Habitat loss
- b.) Overexploitation
- c.) Introduced Species
- d.) Pollution
- e.) Decline in biological diversity
- f.) Global Warming / Climate Change³;

Whereas, nine species of animals endemic to Mindoro island are now on the endangered list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)⁴;

Whereas, breeding and rearing endangered species in captivity has been an important tool in conservation for many years⁵;

¹ <http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/04/30/862>

² *Ibid.*

³ http://www.bagheera.com/inthewild/classroom/class_extinction_other.htm

⁴ “9 Mindoro Animals Join Nature Red List” by Juancho Mahusay, Philippine Star, January 7, 2011

⁵ <http://www.galapagos.org/2008/index.php?id=108>

Whereas, in the best scenario, young animals reared in captivity can then be repatriated to their original habitat, provided that it is still intact, thus saving not only the endangered species but also the overall ecosystem and ecological and evolutionary processes of the site;

Whereas, other conservation actions to save critically endangered species are:

- a.) Establishing protected areas where wildlife habitat is preserved or restored
- b.) Developing new ways to farm, log and graze livestock that preserve habitat values
- c.) Educating citizens about the importance of conserving wildlife
- d.) Encouraging changes in production and consumption that foster resource conservation and reduce waste and pollution through legal and economic incentives
- e.) Enacting and enforcing laws and international treaties that regulate exploitation of wildlife and wildlife trade
- f.) Establishing captive breeding programs for species whose populations have been so depleted that they need human help to increase their numbers and genetic diversity
- g.) Providing alternatives to local people who are dependent on wildlife and forests for food and fuel⁶;

Whereas, biosecurity measures should be introduced to ensure that the ecosystems and ecologies sustaining the native flora and fauna as well as human communities are maintained;

Whereas, animals need space to breed and their natural habitats to survive so that once a habitat is gone, it cannot be recreated⁷;

Whereas, nature and the environment should be protected and maintained, including its flora and fauna, to attain an ideal balance in the ecosystem resulting to biosecurity; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources, Science and Technology and Climate Change to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on measures to protect critically endangered species and formulate policies and programs in order to increase the population of the same.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator

⁶ http://www.bagheera.com/inthewild/classroom/class_extinction_conservation.htm

⁷ http://www.plentymag.com/blogs/extinction/2007/10/does_captive_breeding_of_endan.php