

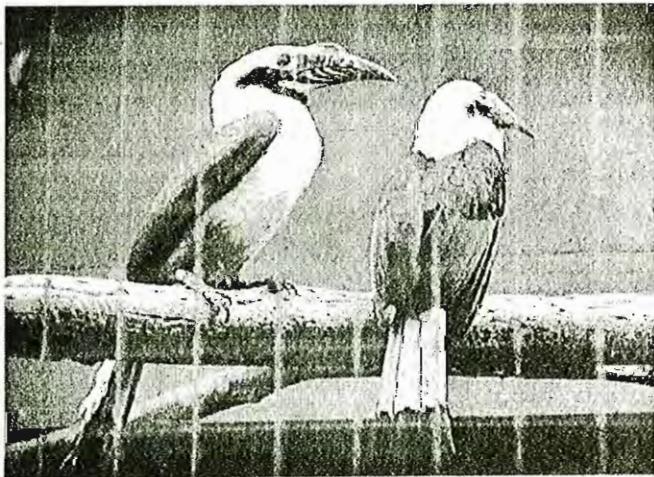
NFEFI Conservation Center

The NFEFI or Negros Forests and Ecological Foundation Inc. is located in Bacolod City, Negros. The NFEFI Biodiversity Conservation Center (NFEFI-BCC) is home to several endangered wildlife species that are propagated for their eventual reintroduction to natural habitats, Rescued from poachers by concerned citizens, most of the animals are donated to the NFEFI-BCC for captive breeding. It is open to the public. The NFEFI Conservation centre concentrates on conservation breeding of threatened taxa native to Negros.

The NFEFI-BCC enjoys technical assistance from the Fauna and Flora International of the United Kingdom, Rotterdam Zoo, Melbourne Zoo, and other zoological institutions in Europe, U.S.A., and Australia including the Society for Conservation of Species and Populations, Munich. Administrative costs, feeding and other maintenance expenses of the facility, critical care for badly injured rescued animals, and the construction of animal enclosures are all dependent on private donations.

The facility is small with just a few species, but beautifully kept. There is a combination of cages for birds and small mammals, such as leopard cats *Prionailurus bengalensis*, and Philippines Spotted Deer *Cervus alfredi*, and Visayan Warty Pig *Sus cebifrons*.

In 1999, two male Visayan Tarctic Hornbills *Penelopides p. panini*, a Critically Endangered species, were born at the centre, which were the first ever to be born in captivity in the country. The objective of NFEFI is to reintroduce these species to the wild but habitat is lacking.



Visayan Tarctic Hornbills *Penelopides p. panini*, a Critically Endangered species

Other species at the centre are Sailfin Lizards *Hydrosaurus pustulatus*, Philippine Bleeding Heart Pigeons *Gallicolumba luzonica*, Metallic Wood Pigeons *Columba vitiensis*, Pink Bellied Imperial Pigeons *Ducula poliocephala*, Pink Necked Fruit Doves *Treron vernans*, two Green Winged Ground Doves *Chalcophaps indica*, two Blue Naped Parrots *Tanygnathus lucionensis*, and one Blue Headed Racket Tail Parrot *Prioniturus discurus*.



Now you see them ... soon you won't.

According to Larry Heaney (1998) Negros is an Endangered Island. Scientific studies on Philippines biodiversity are relatively recent and have revealed the whole country to be a luxuriant hot spot. Philippines has at least 13,500 species of flora or about 5% of the total floral diversity of the earth (Philippine Biodiversity, 1997). There are over 510 species of terrestrial mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians endemic to Philippines, far more than many other countries well known for their diversity of species.



The NFEFI-BCC is like a good zoo in microcasm -- it has all the elements -- good record keeping, individual animal identification, planned breeding programmes, small but good laboratory and hospital.



A complete nutrition and medical centre for the small facility is housed in one room. Care of the animals is excellent.



Sailfin Lizard *Hydrosaurus pustulatus*,