

BRITISH AMBASSADOR SEES ENDANGERED ANIMALS

“Impressive and thoroughly worthwhile”.

That was the verdict of British Ambassador Peter Beckingham following a visit on Monday to the Negros Forests and Ecological Foundation’s (NFEFI) Biodiversity Conservation Center in Bacolod.

Ambassador Beckingham was in Negros for the inauguration in Caliban, Murcia on Monday of the 100th UK assisted DPWH bridge in the Philippines. Before leaving for Manila he dropped by the Center to be briefed on its programs by NFEFI's chairman, Gerry Ledesma.

Of particular interest was the critically endangered animals breeding program. This involves a variety of animals and birds including warty pigs, hornbills, leopard cats and spotted deer.

For over 20 years, NFEFI and sister NGO, the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation, have received strong support from UK-based groups and the British Embassy in Manila.

“This support has been tremendous”, said Gerry Ledesma. “It has helped us in so many ways such as providing a wind-solar-micro hydro renewable energy hybrid for Sitio Campuestohan in Talisay, and it enabled Danjugan Island to become the nation's best managed reef”.

Each year squads of British volunteers come to Negros to work on biodiversity research and survey in Mt. Mandalagan under NFEFI's Negros Rainforest Conservation Project with Coral Cay Conservation, a UK based conservation organization.

“I’m delighted so many British groups and volunteers are involved with this important work”, said Ambassador Beckingham.

“I know there is still a long way to go, but I congratulate NFEFI on the success it is having. It is especially gratifying to hear the breeding program is yielding such positive results with many animals being bred in captivity and now released back in to the wild.”

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Issued on behalf of the Negros Forests & Ecological Foundation NFEFI) by NFEFI trustee Robert Harland. For further information, please contact him on 433 2036 or 0916 343 7048.
