A black and white photograph of a lion lying down in a cage, viewed through the metal bars. The lion is the central focus, lying on its side with its head resting on the ground. The cage bars are prominent in the foreground, creating a grid pattern over the lion. The background shows a concrete floor and a doorway leading to another area.

... In an ideal world, there really shouldn't be zoos. We do not have the right to restrict life. But, zoos are here and the world is a mess, so we have to make the most positive out of that reality...



PHILZOOS

Philippine Zoos and Aquariums Association

PHILZOOS: Setting the standards for Philippine zoological institutions

The PHILIPPINE ZOOS & AQUARIUMS ASSOCIATION (PHILZOOS) is a non-profit association of zoological institutions, individuals, and organizations whose primary aims are to uphold acceptable standards for zoos and aquariums in the Philippines and to promote biodiversity conservation awareness and action through integrated conservation programs.

PHILZOOS was founded in August 2010 and is an Association Member of the SOUTHEAST ASIAN ZOOS & AQUARIUMS ASSOCIATION (SEAZA).

PHILZOOS Welfare & Ethics Strategy

Application of ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICS principles which would fit Philippine settings and provision of biological, ecological and veterinary requirements for each species in collection should be primary considerations in developing feasible management frameworks for Philippine zoological institutions.

PHILZOOS aims to:

- implement *ex situ* animal management practices that should provide each animal in collection the best possible living conditions;
- implement ethical methods of animal exhibitions and special use;
- implement zoo & aquarium management programs that would encourage zoological institution personnel to understand and apply animal welfare and ethics principles in their respective duties and endeavors; and
- ensure that its members adhere to existing Philippine laws and regulations pertaining to animal welfare and to standards as shall be imposed by the Association.



PHILZOOS Species Management Strategy

SPECIES MANAGEMENT for Philippine zoological institutions would be the organized and sustainable practice of managing and keeping animal collection populations in *ex situ* conditions.

PHILZOOS aims to:

- develop and implement sustainable *ex situ* animal breeding and population management programs designed as practical and applicable to Philippine settings; and
- develop and implement practicable animal information and data management programs.





PHILZOOS Conservation & Education Strategy

The primary motivation for Philippine zoological institutions to contribute to wildlife species and habitat preservation and protection efforts should be the opportunity to act as primary and important centers for biodiversity conservation action and education.

PHILZOOS aims to:

- actively and effectively promote appreciation and understanding of wildlife and natural history to the public, with special focus on the Philippines and its indigenous species, through the development and implementation of education programs designed for this purpose;
- actively and effectively convey environmental issues and promote conservation awareness and action to the public, with special focus on the Philippines and its THREATENED species and habitats, through the development and implementation of initiatives and advocacy programs designed for this purpose; and
- develop and implement effective and sustainable conservation breeding programs and relevant scientific research projects on *ex situ* populations of wildlife, with special focus on Philippine indigenous species.

PHILZOOS Status 2020

PHILZOOS Member Institutions and other zoos and aquariums in the country suspended tourism operations upon the Philippine Government imposition of Community Quarantine restrictions in March 2020.

PHILZOOS was in constant communication with member institutions while on Community Quarantine to get updates on the status of operations and welfare of the animals.

PHILZOOS Status 2020

Most PHILZOOS member institutions are privately-owned (without government subsidy) and faced real challenges due to lack of income and depleting resources. It is good to note that all (PHILZOOS member) private zoo owners did not waver in their commitment to provide and maintain good quality care for all the animals.

Government operated zoos already have their annual budgets released prior to imposition of Community Quarantine restrictions and were able to manage and maintain animal care operations despite the loss of revenue.

PHILZOOS Status 2020

PHILZOOS member zoos launched successful online campaigns, primarily selling prepaid tickets (which people can use when zoos are allowed to open) in their respective websites and social media pages, as well as taking in donations. There were food and agri-vet supply companies which also provided in kind support for PHILZOOS members.

For practical purposes, most zoo-based scientific research support and collaboration programs (primarily in private-owned zoos) were suspended. These programs shall resume upon recovery of losses and return of steady flow of income from tourism operations and corporate sponsorships.

PHILZOOS Status 2020

PHILZOOS Institutional Members – Philippine Eagle Foundation and Talarak Foundation – were able to maintain operations of conservation initiatives, including wildlife rescue, rehabilitation & release, ex situ management and reintroduction programs, in situ surveys and local community engagements.

PHILZOOS Institutional Member – Davao Crocodile Park & Zoo – served as rescue facility for more than 500 Indonesian wildlife (which were confiscated from illegal traders in April 2019). Most of the rescued animals were successfully repatriated on September 2020.

PHILZOOS Status 2020

Community Quarantine restrictions were eased by September. PHILZOOS coordinated with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on COVID-19 for guidelines on safe reopening of zoos. PHILZOOS member institutions were able to resume limited tourism operations by October. There still are select localities which periodically declare stricter restrictions affecting zoo operations.

PHILZOOS member institutions were able to comply with the imposed guidelines and restrictions. However, there is a plan to appeal (for special consideration) the restriction imposed on minors aged below 15 years.

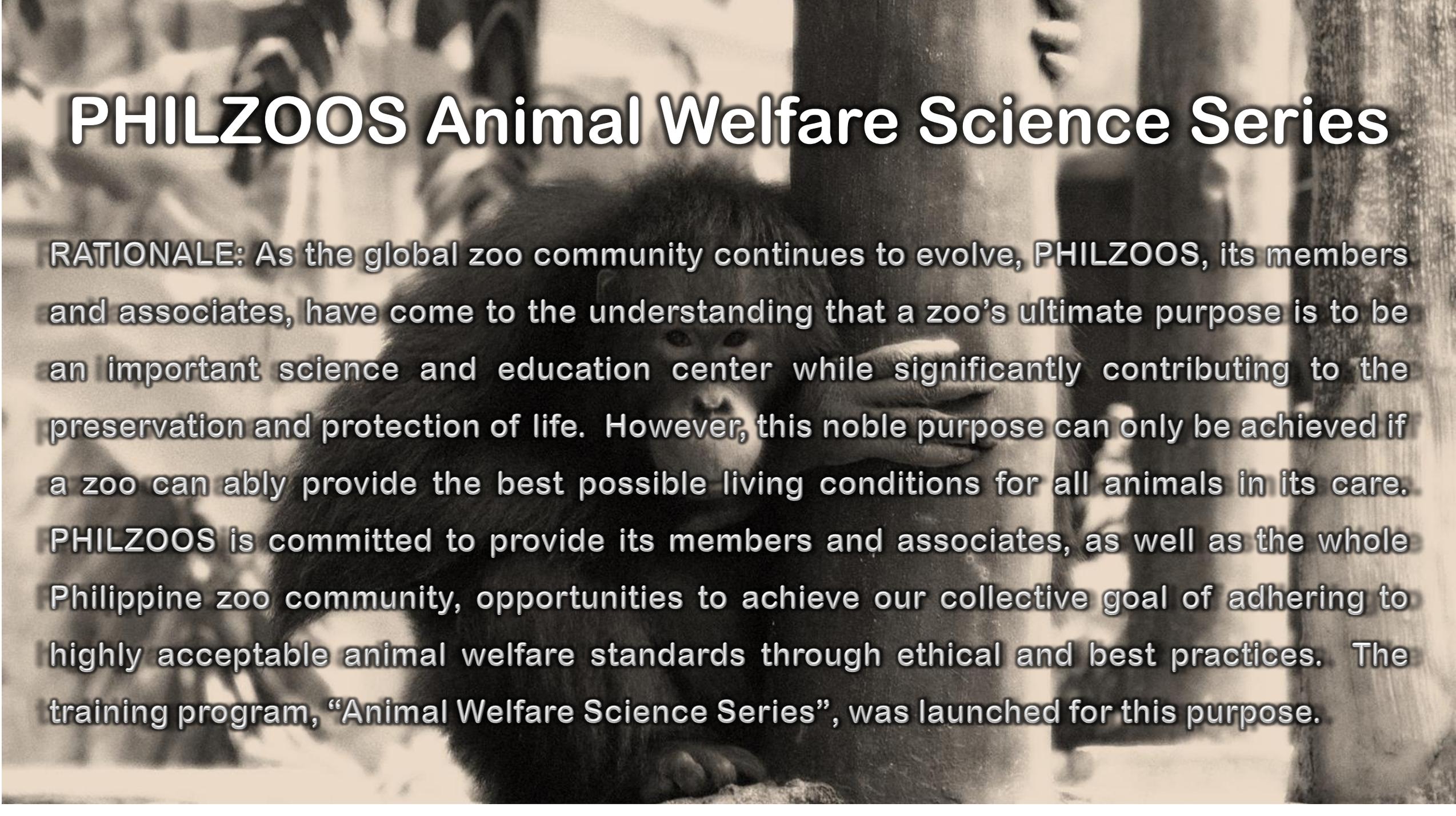


PHILZOOS Status 2020

What are we missing out due to our current situation?

What's in store for PHILZOOS and its mission?

PHILZOOS Animal Welfare Science Series



RATIONALE: As the global zoo community continues to evolve, PHILZOOS, its members and associates, have come to the understanding that a zoo's ultimate purpose is to be an important science and education center while significantly contributing to the preservation and protection of life. However, this noble purpose can only be achieved if a zoo can ably provide the best possible living conditions for all animals in its care.

PHILZOOS is committed to provide its members and associates, as well as the whole Philippine zoo community, opportunities to achieve our collective goal of adhering to highly acceptable animal welfare standards through ethical and best practices. The training program, "Animal Welfare Science Series", was launched for this purpose.

PHILZOOS Animal Welfare Science Series

PHILZOOS Directors' Meeting

Course I: Animal Welfare & Ethics for Zoo Decision-Makers

March 2019 | Ninoy Aquino Parks & Wildlife Center, Quezon City



Resource Speakers:

Biodiversity Management Bureau

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Bureau of Animal Industry

Department of Agriculture

Dave Morgan

Wild Welfare

Dr. Juan Carlos T. Gonzalez

Director, UPLB Museum of Natural History

PHILZOOS Animal Welfare Science Series

Course II : Practical Veterinary Management 1

Course III: Zoo Nutrition Management 1

June 2019 | Bureau of Animal Industry Complex, Quezon City

Course Facilitators:

Dr. Shangzhe Xie

Veterinarian, Wildlife Reserves Singapore

Dr. Francis Cabana

Animal Nutritionist, Wildlife Reserves Singapore

Course II focused on fundamentals and basic principles of zoo veterinary medicine and welfare management

Course III focused on fundamentals and basic principles of zoo nutrition management and its implications on welfare



PHILZOOS Animal Welfare Science Series

Course IV: Practical Veterinary Management 2

August 2019 | Davao Crocodile Park & Zoo, Davao City



Course Facilitators:

Dr. Kevin Lazarus

Director, Zoo Taiping & Night Safari

Chairman, Malaysian Association of Zoological Parks & Aquaria

Dr. Romulo Bernardo

Wildlife Veterinarian

former Director, Manila Zoological & Botanical Gardens

Course focused on management of mammalian collections, with special attention to practical veterinary principles and welfare science fundamentals

PHILZOOS Status 2020

SEAZA Wild Webinar Series | DEC/2020 – FEB/2021

Resumption of SEAZA Welfare Accreditation – 2021

Encourage more PHILZOOS Institutional Members to become SEAZA Institutional Members



Philippine Zoo Welfare Standards & Guidelines

The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), and PHILZOOS Technical Working Committee, shall work closely on developing a Zoo Welfare Standards & Guidelines for the Philippines;

The Philippine zoo standards shall be supplementary to the currently implemented laws, RA 8485 (as amended by RA 10631) or the Animal Welfare Act of the Philippines, and RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of the Philippines;

The SEAZA Animal Welfare Standards & Code of Ethics shall be utilized as primary reference in drafting the Philippine zoo standards, taking into consideration as well the country's socio-economic factors;

A joint BAI-BMB-PHILZOOS Technical Working Group shall be formed to draft the standards & guidelines and publish a Technical Bulletin for implementation.

PHILZOOS Welfare Advocacy & Mission

We shall continue to pursue our goal to further develop our respective capacities and capabilities so we can ably provide the animals in our care the best quality of life possible. We will achieve this with the continuation of the Animal Welfare Science Series and the conduct of other programs, such as seminar-workshops on institutional sustainability and zoo education.

We shall continue to work closely with the government and other institutional partners in the development and implementation of policies and guidelines directly affecting the zoo community and industry. As a SEAZA Association Member, we shall also work towards SEAZA's goal of achieving 100% compliance to the SEAZA Welfare Standards by 2023.

Finally, we will prime our Association to be of service to the Philippine zoo community, to PHILZOOS Institutional Members, or to any other zoological institution which would require assistance and proper guidance.

PHILZOOS Species Management Strategy

SPECIES MANAGEMENT for Philippine zoological institutions would be the organized and sustainable practice of managing and keeping animal collection populations in ex situ conditions.

PHILZOOS aims to:

- develop and implement sustainable *ex situ* animal breeding and population management programs designed as practical and applicable to Philippine settings; and
- develop and implement practicable animal information and data management programs.

PHILZOOS Mission:

- ❖ Conduct collection and population management workshops as part of the curriculum for the PHILZOOS Animal Welfare Science Series
- ❖ Facilitate the development of National Studbooks for Philippine Indigenous Fauna Species in zoological collections





PHILZOOS Conservation Strategy

The primary motivation for Philippine zoological institutions to contribute to wildlife species and habitat preservation and protection efforts should be the opportunity to act as primary and important centers for biodiversity conservation action and education.

PHILZOOS Conservation Mission

inform

inspire

involve

All the calamity and catastrophe we are experiencing are due primarily to our collective neglect of the environment and nature. In response, we in PHILZOOS shall utilize our influence and platforms to advocate for proper action and to make a real difference.

END COMMERCIAL TRADE, COLLECTION & CONSUMPTION
OF WILD FAUNA & FLORA!

Dialogue with those in power and position to reconsider infrastructure and development projects which will cause unnecessary disruption, destruction and degradation of the environment, natural resources and biodiversity.

Protect the Wild. Preserve our Future.

We are PHILZOOS!

AVILON ZOO | AVILON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Rodriguez, Rizal

ALBAY PARK & WILDLIFE

Legazpi City, Albay

BALUARTE ZOO

Vigan City, Ilocos Sur

CEBU SAFARI & ADVENTURE PARK

Carmen, Cebu

DAVAO CROCODILE PARK & ZOO

Davao City

LAGUNA WILDLIFE PARK & RESCUE CENTER

Calamba City, Laguna

LYGER ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Pitilla, Rizal

MANILA ZOOLOGICAL & BOTANICAL GARDENS

Manila City

NEGROS FOREST PARK | TALARAK FOUNDATION

Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

PHILIPPINE EAGLE CENTER | PHILIPPINE EAGLE FOUNDATION

Davao City

YOKI'S FARM

Mendez, Cavite

ZOOBIC SAFARI | ZOOMANITY

Subic Bay Freeport Zone

ZOO WORLD PHILIPPINES

San Fernando City, Pampanga

ADVANCED HOBBYIST GENETIC BREEDING STATION

Pandi, Bulacan

www.philzoos.org

We humans are but part of the greater scheme of things. We go with the flow, not sway it unevenly towards our selfish and misdirected liking. We've done more than enough manipulation and damage to benefit only our species... So, enough... Give back... Do right... Do more...

EFR, 2018

Thank you!



NATIONAL
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JOEL SARTORE

ZOOSEA



AVILON
wildlife conservation foundation

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ZOO