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PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

HOPE fledges successfully from the Katala Institute in Narra

A chick of the critically endangered Philippine Cockatoo was reared in this year's breeding season in Katala Institute (KI) Narra. This represents the first successful conservation breeding effort for this highly threatened parrot in Palawan, which is also home to the majority of the wild population of this species. The facility is run by Katala Foundation and is used to rehabilitate rescued and confiscated cockatoos for later release. It also accommodates individuals which are deemed unfit for a life in the wild, usually because of physical disabilities or human imprinting during illegal captivity.

The cockatoo chick which was given the name "Hope", is the offspring of such permanent resident birds within Katala Institute. It was hand-raised by Angel Satioquia, the head zookeeper of the institution to ensure full supply of nutrients necessary for development. This involved long hours of feeding and monitoring, since particularly in young age the bird needed almost constant attention. Angel commented: "Taking care of Hope is very challenging. We hand-raised Hope after its older sibling died inside the artificial nest box while parents were taking care of them. It was hard to wake up almost every hour to feed and most especially, full attention is needed to check its health condition. Nakakawala ng pagod when you see the fragile hatchling gains weight and energy every passing day." Angel describes aptly "Hope gives us the inspiration and gratification to believe and work on."

Philippine Cockatoos are notoriously difficult to breed in captivity, and therefore only few, mostly European zoos are involved in conservation breeding of this parrot. Katala Foundation hopes that more chicks will hatch in KI in the future, Indira Lacerna Widmann remarked:

“Conservation of the Philippine Cockatoo in the wild remains the absolute priority, but regular conservation breeding of this species will provide us with another tool in our efforts to restore the Katala to its historical range within the Philippines, were it got extirpated decades ago. It needs to be emphasized that all cockatoos kept in Katala Institute are under the umbrella of DENR’s Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program. These birds are managed for conservation purposes. Keeping and trading of Philippine Cockatoos by private persons is against the law and is penalized highly due to its status being CRITICALLY ENDANGERED.”

We are grateful for the long-term commitment of the PCCP funders especially in these challenging times – the Municipality of Narra, Palawan, ZGAP (Germany), Beauval Nature (France), LPF (Spain), Chester Zoo (UK), Mandai Nature (Singapore), Zoo Landau in der Pfalz and its partners, Heidelberg Zoo, anonymous donors and other organizations. Equally we thank our local partners - the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), the Municipalities of Narra, Dumarán, Balabac and the city of Puerto Princesa.

For more information, please contact Indira Widmann, Katala Foundation, P.O. Box 390, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan or at idlacerna@yahoo.com and visit our homepage at www.katalafoundation.org.

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Editor’s Note:

- Katala Foundation, Inc. (KFI) uses the endemic Philippine Cockatoo as its flagship species to achieve its vision of conserving biodiversity with active community involvement. Please visit www.philippinecockatoo.org, www.katalafoundation.org
- The Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program (PCCP) is the pilot program of the KFI which started in 1998 at Rasa Island in the Municipality of Narra, Palawan, Philippines.
 - Pictures attached: CREDIT TO KATALA FOUNDATION INC.





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