

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON STRENGTHENING AND AUGMENTING EXISTING LAWS  
PROTECTING VARIOUS CROCODILE SPECIES IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "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, the *Manila Bulletin* last 22 May 2012 reported that conservationist groups have appealed to the national government to step up programs to preserve various crocodile species in the country;

WHEREAS, crocodiles, which have been hunted nearly to extinction in Australia and Latin America, because of its skin and flesh, are also being hunted in the Philippines;

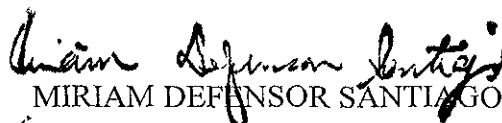
WHEREAS, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) identified habitat destruction, hunting, and human encroachment as factors that lead to the decline in the area of occupancy and population of crocodilian species;

WHEREAS, Congress should take this opportunity to improve legislation protecting these endangered species, with consideration to the scientific papers from the following individuals delivered during the 21st working meeting of the IUCN-SSC and the Crocodile Specialists Group (CSG) last May 21 to May 25 this year:

- Dr. Mundita Lim, chief of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), on the national scenario for crocodile conservation in the Philippines;
- Rainier I. Manalo of the Crocodylus Porosus Philippines, Inc. (CPPI) , on the distribution and status of crocodiles in the vast Agusan Marsh in Eastern Mindanao, where the biggest crocodile in captivity, "Lolong," was caught;
- Merlijn van Weerd of the Mabuwaya Foundation, on the crocodile conservation program in Isabela, calling for the rearing of crocodiles and their eventual release into the wild; and
- Arvin Diesmos of the National Museum, on the potential release sites of crocodiles in Southern Philippines;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on strengthening and augmenting existing laws protecting various crocodile species in the country.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO