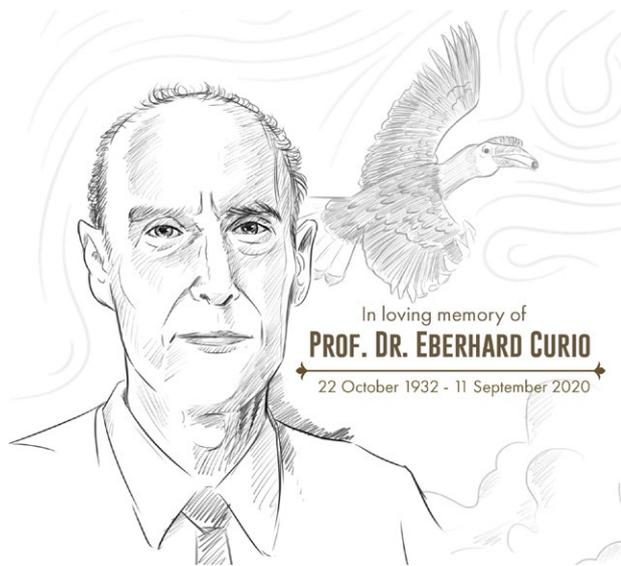


Obituary: Prof. Eberhard Curio



The Philippine Initiative for Environmental Conservation (PhilinCon) team and the civil society community in the Philippines and Germany mourn the passing of Prof. Dr. Eberhard Curio on 11 September 2020 in Bochum, Germany.

Prof. Curio had spent most of his life conducting biological research work in Southern Macedonia (1958), Spain (1960), Galapagos (1962–1963), Jamaica (1969), Panama (1979), Tonga (1990), Fiji (1990–1991), and in the Philippines where he conducted the remainder of his scientific work starting in 1993.

He taught at Ruhr University Bochum (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) in Germany and became a visiting professor at the University of the Philippines.

Prof. Curio had been instrumental in pioneering conservation work and research in the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park for more than 20 years.

His work resulted in the protection of several endangered species such as the Walden's Hornbill (*Rhabdotorrhinus waldeni*) and the discovery of the Panay Monitor Lizard (*Varanus mabitang*) in cooperation with herpetologist Dr. Maren Gaulke and Filipino

co-worker, N. Paulino and of several new species of flora and fauna in Panay Island, Philippines. He is credited with more than 90 scientific publications.

He was the Founder, Scientific Adviser, and President of PhilinCon, which started as the Philippine Endemic Species Conservation Project (PESCP) in 1995 with support from the Frankfurt Zoological Society. The creation of PESCP laid down the work to preserve the remaining lowland rainforests in the Visayas region.

Since 1998, he was a member of the IUCN Survival Service Commission and its Re-introduction Specialist Group.

In May 2003, the International Biographical Center in Cambridge, United Kingdom, awarded him the title "Scientist of the Year". The same organization awarded him "International Educator of the Year Award". Around the same year, he was declared an "adopted son" of Brgy. Centro Norte, Pandan, Antique through a resolution.

He is best remembered as a dear colleague, a friend of the people of Pandan, Antique, and a person with a firm belief in the preservation of our natural heritage.

We will forever remember the legacy of Prof. Curio and will continue to pursue the work that he started for the future of our last natural frontiers and for the future generations to come.

Statement Released by <https://philincon.org/> on 18 September 2020. On behalf of the HSG members, we share the feeling of loss but are hopeful that his exemplary work will be carried forward on the strong foundations he has laid for the conservation of endemic species including the hornbills in the Philippines.