

Review of: "Culture Lockdown, Nature Freedom: Respite for Biodiversity during the COVID Pandemic – A Limited Case Study in La Union, Philippines"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The title of the paper was interesting, so that I thought it would have contributed to the field of study such as biodiversity conservation and the use of modern technology such as RPAS. However, in this form, it is incomplete, and poorly organized and advanced.

Abstract does not contain the result and the Introduction is poorly developed. Theoretical framework on food chain and the role of Kali or Brahminy kite in the food web must be presented in Introduction. Although Fig. 1 provides the concept behind the pyramid this must be well advanced as the text in the Introduction.

There must be a separate section of the Study Area, and the part of the Introduction should be brought under the Study Area as well.

Some information under Methods looks Results, so that Methods and Results should be clearly distinguished. Methods should require the use of RPAS, and other information on data collation and analysis.

Results are not so great as data tells itself. No such highly significant relationship has been shown either. All graphs presented are relatively poor, and the Fig. 4 does not show a strong relationship between BK sightings and active virus cases.

Discussion section is missing. Discussion needs a synthesis on how the bird (kite) diversity in the study region has been depleted over time due to human interventions in their habitat, and how the covid-19 cases would show the strong evidence of increase in their number, and humans are the major driver of loss of habitat and biodiversity. This needs a comprehensive review of literatures. Currently only a few references have been listed, and those listed are not elaborated well in the text either.

Conclusion should reflect a strongly worded 'take home message' in the context of bird conservation policy in the study site.