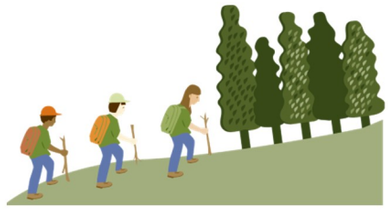
KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

July 2021 SUMMARY
Dumaran Island Critical Habitat
Dumaran, Palawan

14

Bilang ng nagawang patrolya



131.74

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng patrolya

74

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya

6000

Bilang ng natanim

0

Bilang ng nai-report sa mga awtoridad

0

Bilang ng ilegal na gawain na naobserba

20

Pinakamataas na bilang sa tulugan ng Katala

4

Pinakamataas na grupong Talusi na nakita

16

Nakitang namumunga at namumulaklak na puno

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PHILIPPINE COCKATOO CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

09675176935 048-434-7693 kficacatua2016@gmail.com

KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY
Dumaran, Palawan

July 2021

Prepared by:

Michael F. Plazos, Lemuel Pabico, Peter Widmann and Indira D. L. Widmann

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSERVATION AREA, CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES, CONSERVATION TARGETS AND METHODS.

Dumaran is situated in north-eastern Palawan between 10°22' and 10°41'N and 119°28' and 119°55'E. Nine Barangays are situated on Palawan mainland, seven on western Dumaran Island. The island is situated in the Sulu Sea and separated by a ca. seven km wide channel from the mainland.

On Dumaran Island only few small and isolated forest patches remain, none of them larger than 103 ha. The most abundant formation is evergreen and semi-evergreen lowland forest with Ipil *Intsia bijuga,* Amugis *Koordersiodendron pinnatum* being emergent tree species of commercial value. Ornithological surveys conducted by Katala Foundation so far yielded 136 species from the island. A prominent species of conservation concern is the Philippine Cockatoo, which can be found with viable population in the mangroves and forest remnants of Dumaran Island, but apparently not anymore on the mainland. The last remaining forest patches are therefore of global conservation concern. This notion is supported by the recent records of other globally threatened species, particularly the Palawan Forest Turtle *Siebenrockiella leytensis* (CR). Other species of conservation concern are Palawan Hornbill *Anthracoceros marchei* (VU), Blue-headed Racquet-tail (VU) and Palawan Pencil-tailed Tree-mouse *Chiropodomys calamianensis* (DD).

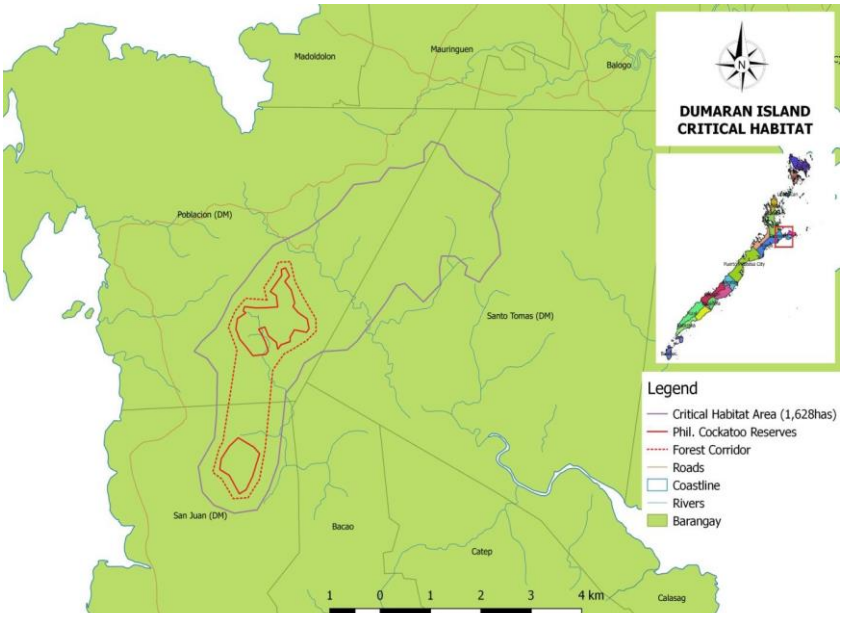

Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

Habitat degradation and destruction, rather than poaching, remain the biggest challenge for cockatoo conservation in Dumaran.

The Dumaran Island Critical Habitat (DICH), comprising 1,628 ha, was established through PCSD Resolution No. 14-513 that connects the two existing cockatoo reserves through a corridor and extends to include remaining forest fragments in the area (Fig. 1). This is the first critical habitat established in the Province of Palawan.A Local Protected Area Management Committee (LPAMC) functions as its interim management body.

Conservation Objectives

1. Maintain the species diversity and function of ecosystems and species within the declared Critical Habitat.
2. Identify and preserve priority sites for conservation and maintain their ecological functions.
3. Prevent and report to enforcement agencies illegal activitiesr that compromise the integrity of the conservation area.

Conservation Targets

1. To stabilize cockatoo population on Dumaran Island, Dumaran from 2018-2021.
2. Increase viable population of endangered and endemic target cavity-nests e.g., Palawan Hornbill, Blue-naped Parrot, Blue-headed Racquet-Tail etc. in Dumaran from 2018-2021.
3. Reduce threats in the area by 50% from 2018-2021.

Methods

Deputized wardens patrol by foot within site and there are times by boat especially when patrolling is done along the mangroves area or within the separate island. Patrol members use a technology-based system to register all observations (threats, status and wildlife data) in the android and transferred to a smart application to generate report (Critchlow et al., 2017; Teacher et al., 2013). Species to be monitored are based on their red-list status and their value as bio-indicators (IUCN, 2019). Ease of identification in the field was considered as well. The maps are generated and analyzed through QGIS. Patrols are coordinated with the concerned barangay, LGU and Bantay-Dumaran wherever it applies.

II. PATROL TEAM AND EFFORT

Monthly patrol consisted of recording fruiting wild trees for Cockatoos and other wildlife as well as threat monitoring inside and outside the Critical Habitat. There were no illegal threats encountered during the monitoring; no driftwoods to be used in artificial nest box were collected. The wardens covered about 131.74km of patrolling within the Omoi and Manangbaling Protected Area, forested area within Bulalakaw, Candez and Kasipulo and coastal areas of Bgy. San Juan. There are 11-20 Cockatoos observed at the roost site during the month. Most of the time, 18 cockatoos were observed. Strong southwest wind was observed throughout the month. We have observed four Cockatoos roosting on coconut trees nearby port of Bgy. Poblacion from July 27, 2021 to date. According to residents, they observed these roosting cockatoos a week ago. There are “Share a Place to Live” posters on houses of nearby residents where cockatoos are roosting.

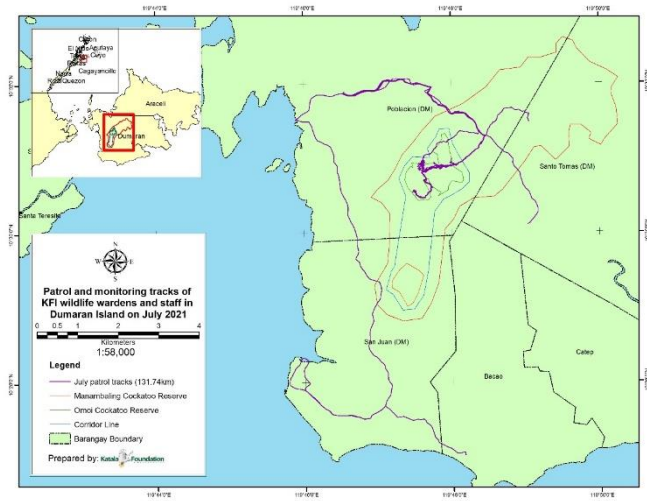

Figure 2. Patrol tracks for the month of July 2021

Figure 3. SWEO MPlazos as he monitored the four roosting cockatoos (2 adults and 2 hatchlings) within the Bgy. Poblacion. Photo by KFI

III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

Supplementation of natural population

Released birds in the recent years were now foraging and inhabiting the island just like the wild cockatoos. They were sighted passing, perching, and feeding on wild fruits at Omoi, Candez Area, Bgy. Poblacion, Bgy. Bacao, Manangbaling and Bgy. San Juan. Birds that reached households and kaingin areas were shooed away by residents due to their knowledge that taming cockatoos will be detrimental to the population. There is also a report that one to two cockatoo reaches the So. Baing of Araceli. It was later verified through Mr. Remo who observed the bird perched on a Malunggay tree near his lot. Other residents observed the bird passing Baing. Fifty posters and pamphlets were given to Mr. Remo (store-owner) and Mr. Beguina (rice-mill owner). Cockatoos sighted near the municipal hall are yet to be determined if they are wild cockatoos or released birds.

Foraging

Trees inside and outside of the phenology plots at the two Cockatoo reserves were regularly monitored. Four tree species inside the plots were recorded to be flowering and fruiting. These are all food providing trees for the Cockatoos: Kulayan, Luwas-luwas, Bunog, and Amuround. Trees outside of the plots were also recorded to be fruiting and flowering. These are Amuraon, Anan, Betad, Casay, Domalta, Dumaran, Kalampinay, Kulayan, Lamoto, Lanete, Panapuan, Saleng, Tagalilong, Tagpe, and Taulili.

Figure 3. Cockatoos observed on a Talisay tree at Bgy. Poblacion (left) and sighted near the municipal hall (right) Photo by KFI

Figure 4. SWEO Paduga (left) and Derecho (right) while recording fruiting wild trees during their phenology recording.

Hornbill Monitoring

There were two to four hornbills observed and recorded during the current month in the areas of Omoi, Kasipulo, Manangbaling, Bacao, Poblacion, and Camaya. Hornbills were observed making noise on Kulayan, Tabangao, Balite, Coconut, Cashew, Saleng, Gmelina, and Basa trees. Most of the observations were from Omoi (six observations out of 12). As in the previous months, the camera trap installed on a hornbill ANB captured several other species apart from the hornbill like gecko and Blue-naped parrot. Nest monitoring of hornbills revealed

that the two hatchlings of NPN-HB2 are near to fledge. Small voices of Palawan Hornbill were heard from nearby trees of HB9 which can be from the first hatchling that already fledged; the second hatchling is still on the nest and healthy.

Other wildlife species

A total of 52 species were recorded from the reforestation site in Bgy. Omoi and in several biodiversity monitoring systems (BMS) points. Target cavity nester like the Blue-naped Parrot, Blue-tailed Racquet-tail, and Palawan Hornbill were observed. Other bird species recorded are Ashy Drongo, Chestnut Malkoha, Green Imperial Pigeon, and Pink-necked Green Pigeon among others. Non-avian species recorded were monkeys, Palawan Water Monitor, Palawan Horned Frog, squirrels and rats. Camera traps were also installed to assist in wildlife monitoring. Palawan Bearded Pigs and night heron are some species recorded.

Figure 5. Palawan Bearded Pig (left) and a night-heron (right) captured by the camera traps. @KFI

IV. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Inventory of seedlings and wildlings at main and satellite nursery is continuous. There are 10,645 wildlings in the main nursery; most of them are Palomaria (3,088), Nato (3,321), and Dumaran (1,578). In Candez satellite nursery, there are currently 1, 489 seedlings and 1,288 in Manangbaling satellite nursery. There are no seedlings in the growth chamber. There were 6,000 trees planted this month within the Camaya CH most of which are Nato (2000), Baslayan (1250), and Palomaria (1000). Candez area experienced a total of 351mm rainfall from seven daily occasions, Omoi area with 347mm from ten daily occasions, and Lagan with 171mm rainfall from three daily occasion.

Figure 6. Wardens bagging soil and wildlings at nursery (left) and planting of trees at Camaya (right).

All issues, concerns, problems encountered, and suggestions were heard, talked upon, and discussed during the breeding season assessment. It was agreed that after the planting season, construction of artificial nest boxes made from driftwood should be a priority. Distribution of IEC materials should be restarted too. As a matter of fact, 150 pcs of posters (75 pcs for MENRO and 75 pcs for 4P's) and 100 pcs of pamphlets (50 pcs for MENRO and 50 pcs for 4P's) were given to the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO).

Figure 7. Breeding season assessment (left) and MENRO while receiving IEC materials (right).

Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Leonardo Oblan requested 1000 wildlings to be used by graduating students and their parents from different schools as their graduation requirement; these wildlings were hauled from the nursery ready for distribution. For this month, 30 wildlings were collected by Cabugawan Elementary School, 50 wildlings for Sto. Tomas Elementary School and 250 wildlings for Nagpadalan, San Juan, Calasag, and Catep Elementary School.

Figure 9. Indigenous tree seedlings nurtured from the KFI nursery were distributed to various schools as requested by SDS Dr. Oblan.

IV.ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Kaingin (Slash and burn) activities were observed this season outside the protected area and forested area. Persistent IEC campaigns must be pursued and livelihood options must be offered by the government especially by the Department of Agriculture or other agencies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you very much to the LGU-Dumaran through the leadership of Mayor Arnel Caabay, Vice Mayor Pablico and their able staff, Municipal Administrator Alberto Ajud, MENRO Caabay, all department heads, barangay officials, and everyone in the LGU for helping us always with utmost attention. We also thank SDS Dr. Leonardo Oblan for his support in habitat conservation and rehabilitation of Dumaran.

We are indebted to our deputized wardens of Dumaran: Nestor Arzaga, Orlando Balmonte, Felipe Condesa, Eddie Derecho, Angelu Paduga, Maximo Pineda and volunteers Domingo Sy and Andres Aurelio for their services and efforts provided to the KFI-PCCP Dumaran project.

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