

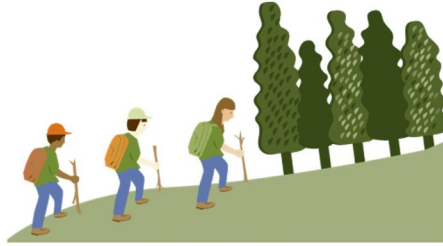
KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

JULY 2021 SUMMARY
IPPF-PPC, Palawan



3

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



63.2

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng
patrolya



20.3

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya



0

Bilang ng naaresto



1950

Bilang ng wildlings sa nursery



74

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



6

Pinakamataas na
grupo ng Talusi na nakita



13

Bilang ng mga inakay ng
Katala na nakalipad



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KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY IWAHIG PRISON AND PENAL FARM (IPPF)

July 2021

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

IPPF is part of a larger landscape, the Sulu Sea plain, which comprises the lowlands of central Palawan facing the Sulu Sea and including areas of Puerto Princesa City, and the

municipalities of Narra and Aborlan. The area is bordered by the Victoria-Anepahan Range to the west and the Sulu Sea to the east; the northern edge runs roughly along 9° 47' N, the southern along 9° 9' N.

Philippine Cockatoos have long been known to persist in the IPPF south of Puerto Princesa City. More recent are flocks of cockatoos from Rasa feeding on the mainland of Narra, and from Iwahig Penal Colony feeding in coastal areas of

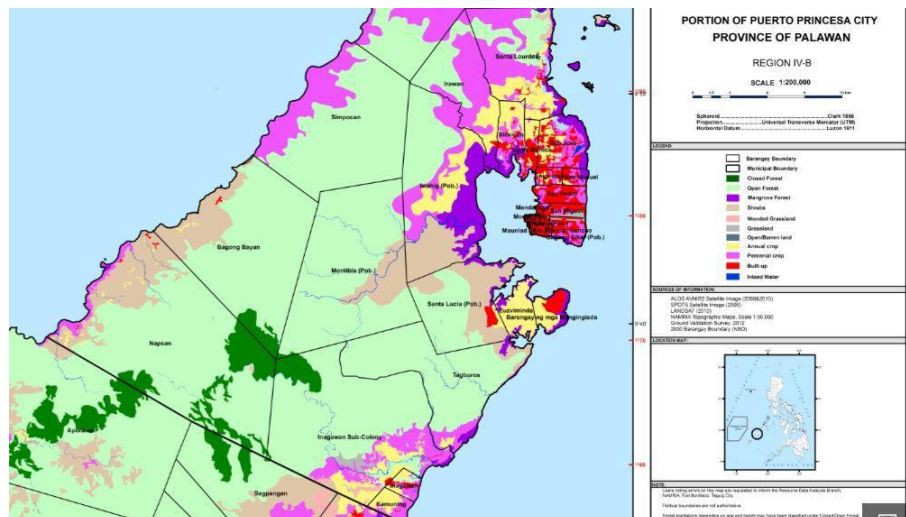


Figure 1. Land use of southern Puerto Princesa, including IPPF according to NAMRIA. Large areas were classified as open forest (bright green signature); this is not in line with observations on site, where large areas of closed forests were recorded particularly in portions of Iwahig, Tagburus (“Zigzag”) and Montible (Source: NAMRIA)

Puerto Princesa City, particularly in the compound of the Western Command (WESCOM) and Bgy. Banca-Banca. Large parts of the coastal plains are cultivated, mainly with coconuts and rice paddies, particularly in Narra and Iwahig, where irrigation is available. Extensive areas of disturbed grassland-forest mosaics persist, which are habitats for a surprisingly high number of Palawan endemics. One explanation for this phenomenon could be that the present vegetation resembles that of some periods in the Pleistocene. These areas are used as pastures, but also for the collection of a wide variety of forest products. Grass fires are a regular occurrence and partly the vegetation is adapted to these occurrences (*Antidesma* fire savanna). Extensive evergreen and semi-evergreen lowland forests exist at the foot of the Victoria Anepahan Range, on fossil limestone reefs in Narra and Aborlan, south of the Bay of Puerto and in the Iwahig Penal Colony. Particularly the latter area is of outstanding

conservation importance. All endemic lowland bird species are recorded from the area. Globally threatened species, aside from the cockatoo, include Palawan Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron napoleonis*, Blue-headed Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platenae*, Palawan Hornbill *Anthracoceros marchei*, Red-headed Flameback *Chrysocolaptes erythrocephalus*, Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*, Falcated Wren-babbler *Ptilocichla falcata*, and Palawan Flycatcher *Ficedula platenae*. Because of the abundance of brackish and freshwater wetlands Iwahig Penal Colony is an important wintering ground for waterbirds, including the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*.

Conservation Objectives

1. Maintain the species diversity and function of ecosystems and species within Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF).
2. Identify and preserve priority sites for conservation and maintain their ecological functions.
3. Prevent or report to enforcing agencies illegal activities that compromise the integrity of the conservation area.

Conservation Targets

1. To increase Philippine Cockatoo population within Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF) by at least 3% from 2018 to 2021.
2. Increase viable population of endangered and endemic target cavity-nesters e.g. Palawan Hornbill, Blue-naped Parrot, Blue-headed Racquet-Tail etc. in Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm from 2018-2021.
3. Reduce threats in the area by 50% from 2018 to 2021.
4. Establish critical habitat for Philippine Cockatoo and other threatened wildlife species within Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm.

Methods

Deputized wardens patrol by foot or by boat monthly within site. 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 bioindicators (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, prison farms, protected area office wherever it applies.

II. PATROL TEAM AND EFFORT

The patrol team comprises KFI, DENR, IPPF personnel, and wildlife wardens conducted leg banding of Katala, habitat monitoring of wildlife and biodiversity, and continued city monitoring. The main areas monitored were foraging areas in the City and the surroundings of the penal farm. The team covered a total of **63.2 km** for July. Please refer to the list of team members on the last page.

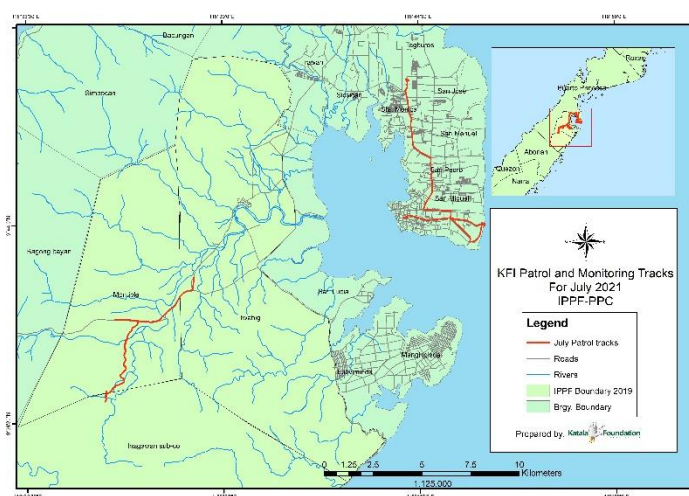


Figure 2. Patrol tracks for July 2021 ©KFI

III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

A. WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

- *Intensive monitoring on foraging and roosting area continued.* For this month, the highest number of cockatoos recorded roosting in Montible was 74. Meanwhile, 12 cockatoos were observed roosting in the city area. At day time (5:30am-6:30pm), cockatoos were observed crossing Montible to Iwahig and Sta. Lucia. They were observed foraging in various trees like Moringa, Sahing, Amugis, and Dau in Luzviminda.



Figure 3. Roosting cockatoos in Montible. ©KFI

- *Breeding season of Philippine cockatoo.* The team visited two active nest trees for the month. The last two hatchlings of Philippine cockatoos were successfully banded in Montible. Blood samples and biometrics were also taken from the said cockatoos. Meanwhile, the other two hatchlings that were banded last month were not ready to fledge yet. In total, 13 successful fledglings were banded this year. The team also noted that new banded recruits from this year are now observed at the roost site in Montible. In the next month, nest characterization for all nest trees and synchronized counting are scheduled.



Figure 4. Snapshots of banding of cockatoos for the last batch for this year's breeding season. ©KFI

- *Observation of wildlife and other cavity nesters monitoring.* The highest number of hornbills that was observed for this month was six. Meanwhile, we also recorded flocks of more than 20 hill mynas and 15 Blue-naped parrots in Montible. The parents dropped the two eggs of Hill myna that were reported last month in the artificial nest box. In total for other cavity-nesters, this breeding season yielded four Blue-naped parrots, two Palawan-scops owls, four Dollarbirds, and two Hill Myna fledglings. Some notable species observed during the monitoring period were: Palawan peacock-pheasant, Palawan Hornbill, Blue-naped Parrot, Blue-headed Racket-tail, Minivets, Spiderhunters, Drongos, and sunbirds. Non-avian species observed: Two-striped coral snake, Philippine Mock viper, Palawan Mangrove snake, Malayan box turtle, Palawan flying squirrel, Palawan Stink Badger (scent), Palawan porcupine (tracks), and Palawan Bearded pigs (tracks).

IV. Other Highlights

- *Montible native trees nursery updates.* A tree planting activity with the LGU of Montible and IPPF staffs was conducted near Bacoco river inside the penal farm, where 250 seedlings were sourced from our native nursery. A total of 1950 seedlings and wildlings of trees like Bayoso, Manggis, Nato, Gyro, and Taluto were available for planting.
- On July 9, 2021, KFI was invited to talk for the program of Tactical Operation Wing West (TOWWEST-WESCOM) “Usapang pangkaunlaran, Usapang pangkapayapaan Palawan (UP-UP Palawan)” a radio program that aims to promote government’s effort to end local communist armed conflict. Ms. Indira Widmann discussed KFI’s wardening scheme, which enables former environmental offenders to alter their ways and now defend the environment. Other government offices, such as PIA-Palawan and DOLE-Palawan, were also in attendance (via zoom) and expressed their willingness to collaborate with us.
- The personnel of Princesa garden resort trimmed at least four coconut trees used by the cockatoos for roosting. We noted that cockatoos vacated this roost site and moved to different locations within the penal farm. We hope to discuss with management of the resort regarding presence of the cockatoos in the area but to no avail as no mgt personnel could be reached. Continuous monitoring is done by our team in the area.
- Few people probably engaged in rattan and almaciga collection were met in our patrol in Montible area but we didn’t have opportunity to talk with them.



Figure 5. Some of the trees were trimmed in the roost site of the Philippine cockatoo. ©KFI

V. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS, AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- We hope more concrete actions to reported violations against PD 705, RA 9147 in the past could be realized through enforcement agencies’ initiatives.
- Forest destruction and illegal occupation in IPPF grounds. Environmental laws, primarily PD 705 and RA 9147, should be enforced in full force, hoping prosecution can deter further unlawful activities.
- The COVID 19 restrictions should not be a reason for lax law enforcement. These times more than ever, we think enforcement should be thoroughly carried out because the violators are also using the same reason. This month was limited as we were installing camera traps in another study area within the VAMR.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Policies on and better enforcement of lowland forest protection and conservation must be implemented and sustained, especially within IPPF and the Victoria Anepa’am Mountain Range (VAMR)! Lowland forests harbor more biodiversity than montane forests; thus, they should be protected against encroachment and further destruction.

VII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful and appreciative to our partners from the DENR-CENRO Puerto Princesa City, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), Western Command, and Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF) for their unrelenting support.

We appreciate the participation of representatives from these offices: Mr Jessie Escandalio of DENR, Mr. Jerwin Jamili of PCSD and from the IPPF we thank CTOIII Earl Jude A. Arias and CSupt. Joel R. Calvelo for his leadership.

We also want to thank those community members who send us their cockatoo sightings in the City.

To all those who in one way or the other had contributed to the achievement of our shared vision for the conservation of biodiversity in the IPPF, great thanks!



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