

KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

November 2021 SUMMARY Dumaran Island Critical Habitat Dumaran, Palawan



12

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



109.48

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng
patrolya



17.13

Kabuuang oras ng
patrolya



6000

Bilang ng natanim



0

Bilang ng nai-report sa mga
awtoridad



0

Bilang ng ilegal na
gawain na naobserba sa
loon ng P A



30

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



5

Pinakamataas na
grupong Talusi na nakita



44

Nakitang namumunga at
namumulaklak na puno





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November 2021

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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 leytenensis* (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).

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

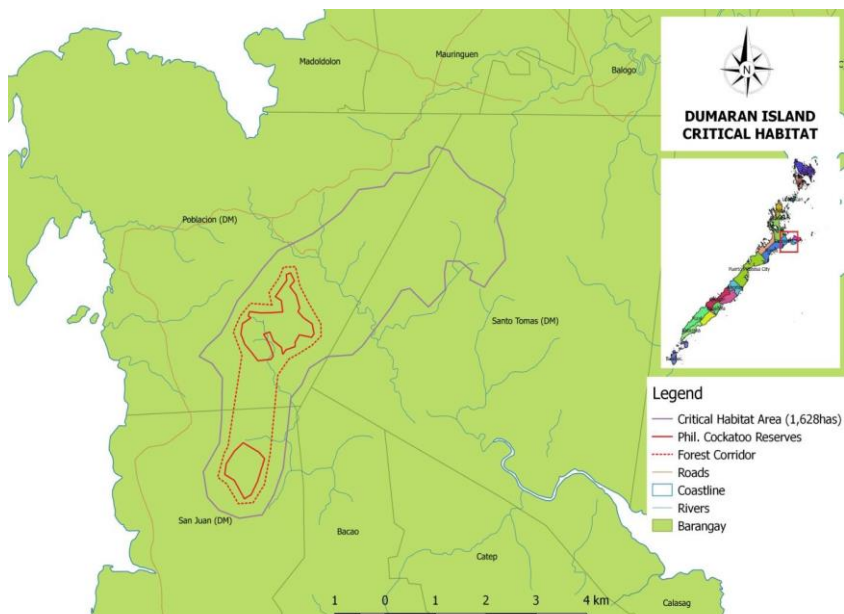


Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

The Dumarán 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 activities that compromise the integrity of the conservation area.

Conservation Targets

1. To stabilize cockatoo population on Dumarán Island, Dumarán 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 Dumarán 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-Dumarán 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. The wardens covered about 109.48km of patrolling within the Omoi and Manangbaling Protected Area, forested area within Bulalakaw, Candez and Kasipulo and coastal areas of Bgy. San Juan. There were 20-30 cockatoos observed at the roost site during the month of November 2021. Most of the time, 25 cockatoos were observed (11 days of observation). Fair weather was observed in the roost most of the time with the rain only falling on six occasions.

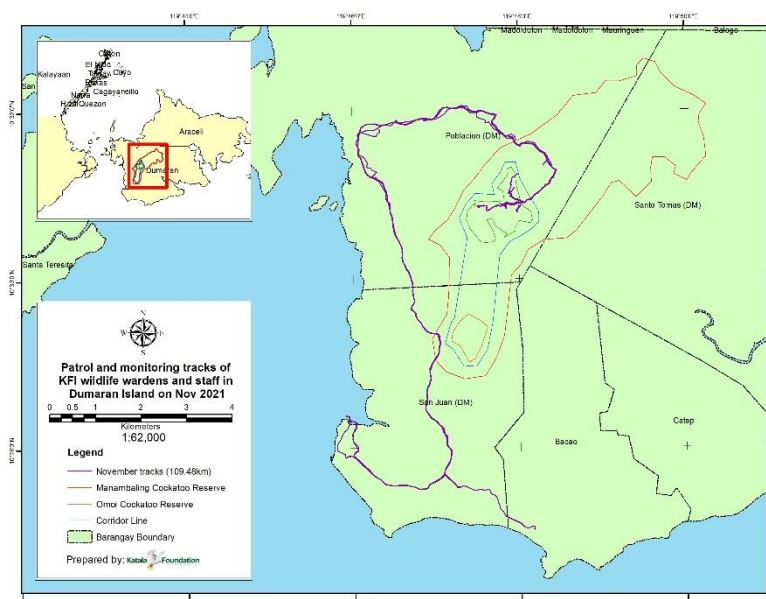


Figure 2. Patrol tracks of wildlife wardens for November.

There are two to ten cockatoos (wild and released) observed perching, feeding and making noise on trees of Coconut and Malunggay at Bgy. Bacao. Cockatoos were observed passing and coming sometimes from west part, sometimes to east part of the said barangay every morning and flew to northwest direction before 6:00PM. Nest monitoring has also started this period but no occupation was observed yet.

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 shoed away by residents due to their knowledge that taming cockatoos will be detrimental to the population. Five artificial nest boxes (ANB) out of driftwood were made. Three were installed; one ANB for cockatoo at Candez and two ANBs for hornbill at Omoi.



Figure 3. Making of ANB made from driftwood (left); and installation of ANB in Candez (right).

Foraging

Trees inside and outside of the phenology plots at the two cockatoo reserves were regularly monitored. Seven tree species inside the plots were recorded to be flowering and fruiting. These are Amuraon, Anan, Kulayan, Luwas-luwas, Bunog, Kalampinay and Pagatpat. These are all food providing trees for the Cockatoos. Forty-four trees outside of the plots were also recorded to be fruiting and flowering. These are Agboy, Anan, Amumusing, Amuraon, Apatot, Balite, Balonsaging, Bangkudo, Barok, Batbat, Berrie, Binatalan, Binunga, Bunuang, Bunog, Bunot-Bunot, Casay, Catmon, Dangkalan, Domalta, Duguan, Kalampinay, Kandis, Kanomay, Kulayan, Kuliat, Imamangal, Inagdong, Iniam, Iniol, Ipil, Late, Luwas-Luwas, Magabo, Orabsik, Pagatpat, Panapuan, Saleng, Tagalilong, Tagpe, Talisay, Taluto, and Tebey.



Figure 4. Tagalilong fruits eaten by hornbill, doves, bulbuls, and sunbirds (left) and flowering as observed during monitoring (right).

Palawan Hornbill Monitoring

There were two to five hornbills recorded in 19 observations during the current month in the areas of Omoi, Candez, Kasipulo, Manangbaling, Palokpok, Olandeg and Luyang. Some were making noise and others perched on Balite, Cashew, Saleng, Kulayan, Acacia, Bangkal, Gemilina, Domalta, and Lit tree.

Other wildlife species

Sixty species were recorded in the biodiversity monitoring system (BMS) stations and in reforestation areas including target cavity nesters like the Philippine Cockatoo, Palawan Hornbill, Blue-naped Parrot, and Blue-headed Racquet-tail. Other bird species recorded were Hooded Pitta, Lovely Sunbird, Black-naped Oriole, Common Iora, and Barred Buttonquail. Non-avian species recorded were monkeys, snakes, squirrels, and monitor lizard. Ground camera trap in Omoi recorded civet cat and Philippine Scrub Fowl.

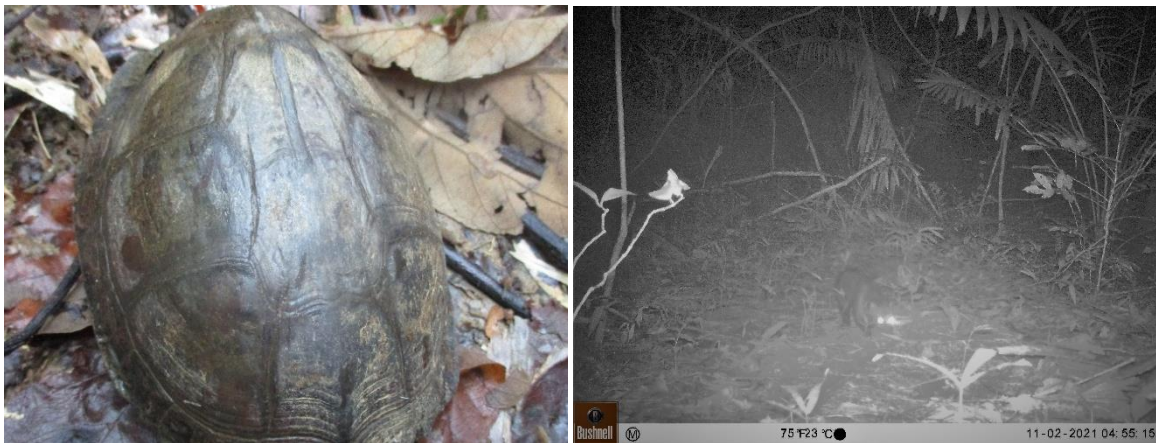


Figure 5. Asian Box Turtle observed during monitoring (left) and a civet cat captured in the camera trap (right).

III.OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

There are 7,708 wildlings in the main nursery; most of these are Nato and Palomaria. In Candez satellite nursery, there are currently 1,419 seedlings and 1,622 in Manangbaling satellite nursery. There are no seedlings in the growth chamber. There were 6,000 trees planted this month within Omoi area. Monitoring of planted trees was conducted within the Poblacion tree planting site with MENRO and staff. Thirty-three dead wildlings of Palomaria trees were replaced on the said tree planting area. Candez experienced a total of 444mm rainfall from eight daily occasions while Lagan with 219mm rainfall from seven daily occasion this month. Omoi recorded 305mm rainfall from eight daily occasions on November 1-17, 2021 only because the rain gauge was damaged.



Figure 6. Wildlife wardens during tree planting at Omoi (left) and replacing of dead wildlings at Poblacion (right).

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.

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