

KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

November 2021 SUMMARY
IPPF-PPC, Palawan



7

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



162.47

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng
patrolya



28.4

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya



0

Bilang ng illegal na
aktibidades



0

Bilang ng naaresto



977

Bilang ng halaman sa nursery



96

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



1

Pinakamataas na
grupo ng Talusi na nakita



25+

Pinakamataas na bilang ng
katala sa kinakainan



PHILIPPINE
COCKATOO
CONSERVATION
PROGRAMME



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

November 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

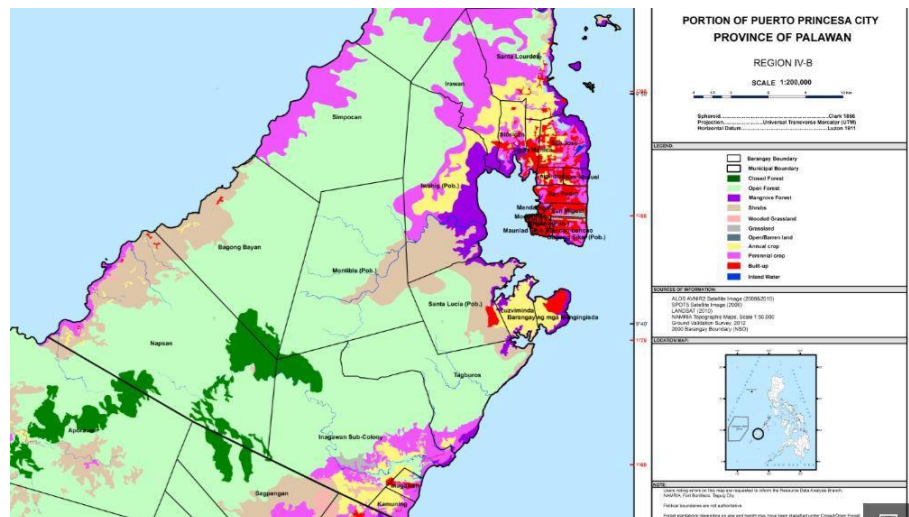


Figure 1. Land use of southern Puerto Princesa, including IPPF according to NAMRIA. Large areas were classified as open forest (bright green signature); this is not in line with observations on site, where large areas of closed forests were recorded particularly in portions of Iwahig, Tagburus ("Zigzag") 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 comprising KFI, PCSDS, IPPF personnel, and wildlife wardens conducted synchronized counting and patrol monitoring. The main areas monitored were foraging areas in the city and the surroundings of the penal farm. The team conducted seven patrols and covered a total of **162.47 Km** for November. Please refer to the list of team members on the last page.

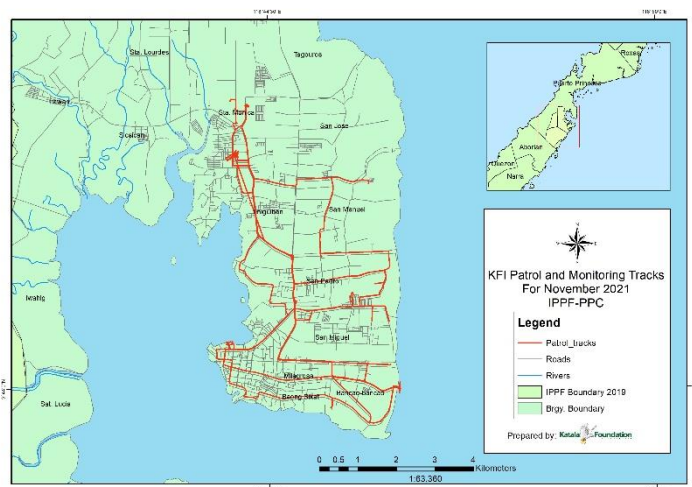


Figure 2. Patrol tracks for November 2021 ©KFI

III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

A. WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

- Intensive monitoring on foraging and roosting area continued.* Roost and synchronized counting of the Philippine cockatoo in the city were done for this month. The highest recorded count is 96 and 6 in the city and Montible respectively. At day time, (5:30 am-5:20pm) cockatoos in the city were observed foraging in Balete, Moringa, Fire tree and Bani before dispersing in different parts of the city. In Montible cockatoos were observed flying from Malabo Forest crossing Tagtalaba and Bacoco river to Iwahig central to forage on fruiting trees in the area. Meanwhile, some sightings were observed in San Miguel, WESCOM, San Pedro, and Libis. Synchronized counting of cockatoo were conducted in identified strategic areas within the city and in Montible where staff and volunteers were stationed for the count. With the count, we are able to update the flight pattern of the Philippine cockatoos during the early preparation for the next breeding season. We observe a decrease of roosting cockatoos in the city indicating that breeding pairs are preparing for the coming breeding season.



Figure 3. Some cockatoos in the city area. ©MBO-KFI

- Observation of wildlife and other cavity nesters monitoring.* Hornbills were seen in Sibakan area going to Montible Forest. Other parrot species like Blue-naped parrot and Blue-headed racket tail were also seen. Some notable species observed during the monitoring period were: Hair-crested Drongo, Palawan flowerpecker, Olive-backed Sunbird, Pale Spiderhunter, White-bellied Sea eagle, Common Sandpiper, Grey-Tailed Tattler, Pacific Reef-Heron, Eurasian Curlew, Whimbrel, Common Iora, Kingfishers, Red junglefowl, White-vented Shama, Asian fairy-bluebird, non-avian species observed: Squirrels and Paradise tree Snake.

B. THREAT OBSERVATIONS

For this month no threats were observed in the city area aside from the people that were seen passing and gleaning near the cockatoo roosting site. People were advised not to interrupt or flash their light on the birds while gleaning. KFI also distributed information materials about the wildlife act.

While in the lowland forests within the IPPF, clearing of lowland forests especially near the road going west coast (from km 29 to 35) can be observed.

IV. Other Highlights

A 10-day retrieval of camera traps installed in Barangay Culandanum, Aborlan since July was successfully completed by the team composed of KFI staff, wardens and members of the Tagbanua community in the area. The footage shows the activity patterns of wildlife in the area. Also, an abstract entitled “Amidst the pandemic: Anthropogenic activities impact the breeding population of Philippine Cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia* in Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF), Palawan, Philippines” was accepted as poster presentation for the 29th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium virtual meeting hosted by the Biodiversity Conservation Society of The Philippines (BCSP).. The symposium will be from December 1-3, 2021.

V. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS, AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- The continued and persistent destruction of lowland forests along Montible highway in Puerto Princesa is alarming and growing, and yet no concrete actions are done by authorities. The IPPF is also doing its rounds and reporting said illegal activities reportedly. We look forward to legal actions and prosecution happening before it is too late. Hunting of the Hornbill was reported in the past, yet we are not aware that the case was filed. Forest destruction and illegal occupation in IPPF grounds should be immediately acted upon by authorities.
- Nest monitoring for next month will be pursued to observe the breeding pairs in their nest cavities and also to monitor threats around the identified nest trees.
- Availability of uniformed personnel during the patrols in Luzviminda and Sta. Lucia could help in apprehending violators within the IPPF area.
- The scheduled synchronized counting of Philippine Cockatoos in Montible was affected by the lockdown imposed in the area; hence, the counts were not fully enforced. We hope things get better in the next months as we enter into the breeding season.

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.

City-wide campaign against persecution of wild birds should be pursued.

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 also appreciate the help of CTOIII Earl Jude A. Arias and CSupt. Joel R. Calvelo for his leadership from the IPPF.

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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