KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

June 2021 SUMMARY
Dumaran Island Critical Habitat
Dumaran, Palawan

16

Bilang ng nagawang patrolya

189.74

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng patrolya

85

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya

7100

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

5

Pinakamataas na grupong Talusi na nakita

41

Nakitang namumunga at namumulaklak na puno

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PHILIPPINE COCKATOO CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

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

June 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 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).

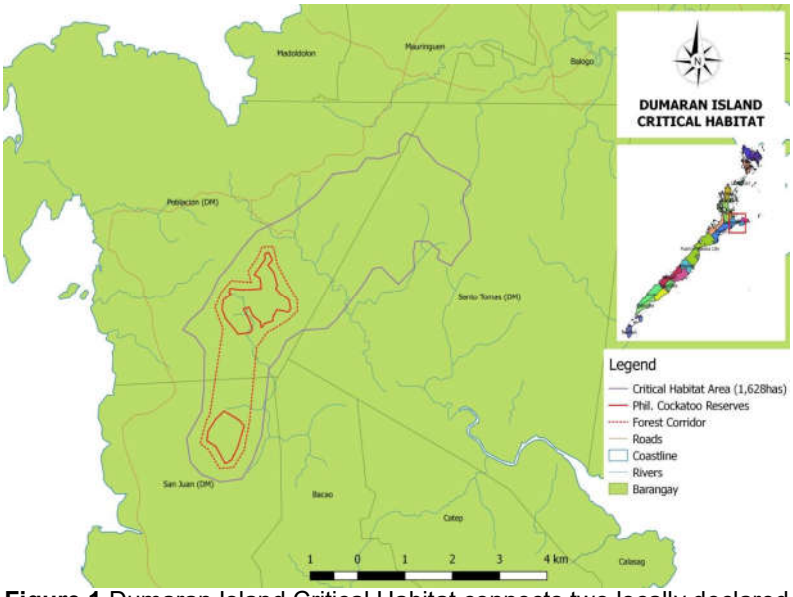

Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

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 activities 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. The wardens covered about 189.74kmof patrolling within the Omoi and Manangbaling Protected Area, forested area within Bulalakaw, Candez and Kasipulo and coastal areas of Bgy. San Juan. There are 15-20 Cockatoos observed at the roost site during the month of June 2021. Most of the time, 20 cockatoos were observed. Fair weather was observed throughout the month.

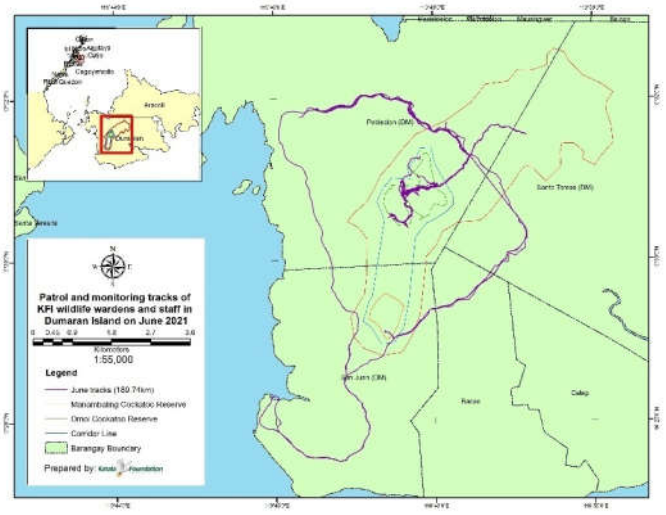

Figure 2. Patrol tracks of wildlife wardens for June

III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

Breeding Season 2020

Two natural nests of Philippine Cockatoo were monitored regularly since these have the last batch of hatchlings for the year. First nest has two hatchlings which successfully fledged; while the other nest was that of Gold which had one hatchling that was banded this month. One of the two artificial nests or supplemental nests successfully occupied by the Philippine Cockatoo had one hatchling and was banded on June 21, 2021. Biometrics and blood sample were taken from hatchlings for DNA sexing and PBFD tests. This year's breeding season yielded five successful fledglings of Philippine Cockatoos.

Figure 3. Banding of the hatchling from the supplemental nest (inset above right) occupied this year. Photo by KFI.

Other parrots. Two of the remaining twelve nests of **Blue-naped Parrot** with hatchlings reported in the previous month had successfully fledged. Meanwhile, we confirm 21 successful fledglings of **Blue-headed racquet tails** from ten nests this year.

Other cavity-nesters. No natural nest of **Hill myna** was occupied but two artificial nest boxes ANB were with five successful fledglings. Two other ANBs were occupied by **Dollar bird** with a total of nine fledglings. One known **Gokgok** nest hastwo fledglings confirmed; another one from a newly-discovered nest tree had two successful fledglings also confirmed. Four new trees of **Red-headed Flameback** were occupied with two hatchlings each and four of which have fledged.

Supplementation of natural population

We banded one hatchling this year from a male released Philippine Cockatoo in 2016. This male successfully bred with a wild cockatoo from Dumaran and occupied a supplemental nest tree that was installed late last year. This is a success story of another released bird back in the wild after rescue and rehabilitation. Moreso, the success is coupled with the pair occupying a supplemental nest or artificial nest. The other 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.

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 all food providing trees for the Cockatoos: Anan, Kulayan, Luwas-luwas, Iniol, Bunog, Amuround, and Baringbing. Trees outside of the plots were also recorded to be fruiting and flowering including: Amumusing, Balite, Banaba, Banga, Bangkudo, Basa, Batbat, Betad, Binunga, Bunot- Bunot, Bonuang, Casay, Dulo, Inagdong, Iniam, Kalampinay, Kandis, Lago, Lanite, Luyong-Luyong, Magabo, Malabayabas, Maranggo, Narra, Olandeg, Panapuan, Saleng, Somalagen, Tabigue, Tagalilong, Talisay, Taluto, and Tebey.

Hornbill Monitoring

Two hatchlings are confirmed from a newly-discovered nest tree. Another two hatchlings are from a known hornbill nest tree. They haven't fledged yet as of this month. There were one to five hornbills observed and recorded during the current month in the areas of Omoi, Candez,Kasipulo, Manangbaling,Bacao, Poblacion, and Camaya.Some were calling and others perched on Talisay, Coconut, Lagara, Kulayan, Narra, Ipil, Talisay, Binunga, Cashew, Mango, Apulaon, Gmelina and Bonuang. As in the previous months, the camera trap installed on a hornbill ANB captured several others species apart from the hornbill like gecko and Blue-naped parrot.

IV. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

The Katala Environmental Education Center (KEEC) needs immediate repair for the whole structure as the native materials used have reached its lifespan (Fig.4).

Figure 4. The KEEC needs repair after over 15 years of use – the native materials in the structure have rotten and currently dangerous to occupy.

Inventory of seedlings and wildlings at main and satellite nursery is continuous. There are 8,333 wildlings in the main nursery; most of them are Palomaria, Nato, and Dumaran. In Candez satellite nursery, there are currently 1,477 seedlings and 1,273 in Manangbaling satellite

nursery. There are no seedlings in the growth chamber. We planted 7,100 trees this month in Camaya within the Critical Habitat and Poblacion Reforestaion area. Candez area experienced a total of 150mm rainfall from seven daily occasions while Omoi area with 290mm from ten daily occasions. Lagan had 49mm rainfall from three daily occasions this month.

18th Kalabukay Festival Virtual Celebration

KFI along with the LGU-Dumaran celebrated the 18th Kalabukay Festival last June 18, 2021 via Zoom meeting and Facebook live of the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program FB page. This year's theme is "Kita Parte 'Y Ang Solosyon" (We are part of the solution). The program consisted of messages from Hon. Mayor Arnel T. Caabay, MENRO Edwin Caabay, and KFI Indira Dayang Widmann, special presentation from renowned artists Joey Ayala and Jeffrey Hidalgo, and the awarding of prizes for three virtual contests i.e., Nature Photo Poem, Photo Essay, and Show Me a Picture Challenge. Dumaran residents celebrated the festival thru a tree-planting spearheaded by the LGU through the MENRO office and KFI wildlife wardens and staff.

The FB live was viewed 723 times with 1,714 people reached. The entries for the photo poem, photo essay, and show me a picture challenge reached 13,312, 13,063, and 6,567 people respectively. They were also shared 5700, 6100, 2200 times respectively. It also proved that despite the pandemic, we can still spread awareness and share our talents and skills that will help the conservation of our nature.

Figure 5. The official banner of the 18th Kalabukay Festival (above left) and the virtual celebration of the festival thru Zoom and FB live (above right) Photos by KFI. Tree planting at Dumaran Island Critical Habitat. Photos by MENRO Caabay

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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