

# KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

## JUNE 2021 SUMMARY IPPF-PPC, Palawan



13

Bilang ng nagawang  
patrolya



248.4

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng  
patrolya



59.88

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya



4

Bilang ng illegal na  
aktibidades



0

Bilang ng naaresto



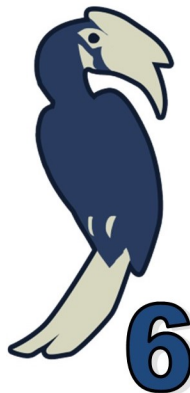
2200

Bilang ng nakolektang wildlings



65

Pinakamataas na bilang sa  
tulugan ng Katala



6

Pinakamataas na  
grupo ng Talusi na nakita



17

Bilang ng mga inakay ng  
Katala



Anonymous  
Donor



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

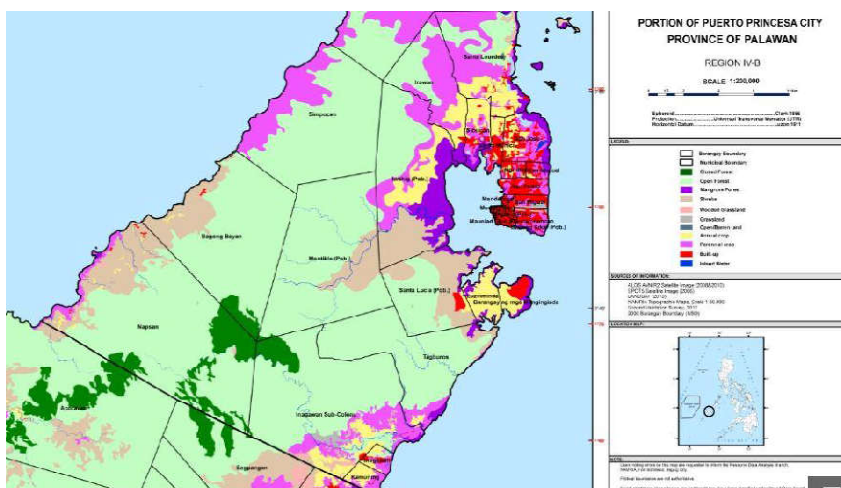
**June 2021**

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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-Bancao. 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.

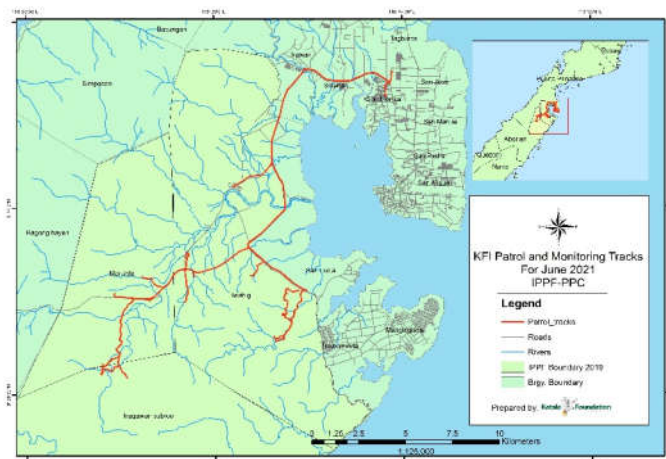
### Methods

Deputised 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 composed of KFI, PCSD, DENR, IPPF personnel with the participation of CSupt. Calvelo and wildlife wardens conducted leg banding of Katala, habitat monitoring of wildlife and habitats and continued city monitoring. The main areas monitored were foraging areas in the city and surroundings of the penal farm. A total of **248.4km** were covered for the month of April. Please refer to list of team members in the last page.



**Figure 2.** Patrol tracks for June 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 sixty-five. Meanwhile six cockatoos were observed roosting in the city area this month. At day time (5:30am-6:48pm) they were observed crossing Montible to Iwahig and Sta. Lucia. They were observed foraging in various trees like Moringa, Sahing, Amugis and Dau in Luzviminda.
- *Breeding season updates for Philippine cockatoos and other cavity-nesters.* Ten active nest trees from last year and four new nest trees were visited this month. As of June, this cockatoo breeding season recorded 22 eggs, 17 of which hatched; 11 were banded of which nine fledged successfully; two awaits banding in July and unfortunately, four hatchlings were poached from Menor and Tagtalaba forests in Montible. Biometrics and blood samples were taken from hatchlings for DNA sexing and PBFD tests. We also recorded four hatchlings of Palawan hornbill and Oriental Dollarbird, eight hatchlings and two eggs of Blue-naped parrot and two hatchlings of Palawan Scops Owl and Hill Myna as of this reporting period. Two active cockatoo nest holes were flooded, while the nest tree in Tagtalaba is dead and is potentially dangerous to climb in the next monitoring period. Meanwhile, we recorded two additional eggs of Hill Myna in an artificial nest box (ANBs) that was installed in Montible.



**Figure 3.** KFI team with CSupt. Calvelo during the leg banding of Katala in Montible ©KFI



**Figure 4.** Snapshots from the Montible roosting site (left) and the two cockatoos that were banded this month. ©KFI

- Wildlife monitoring.** The highest number of hornbills that was observed for this month was six. Meanwhile we also observed flocks of 20 Hill Mynas and 10 Blue-naped parrot near one of the occupied ANBs in Montible by a Hill Myna. We also recorded three eggs of Hooded Pitta along the trail on the riverbanks of Luzviminda. In Sta. Lucia three of the four Hornbill hatchlings were confirmed dead due to an ant infestation. The remaining hatchling was rescued by the team and was turned over to the PWRCC (Fig. 5). The trunk where the nest cavity was located had fallen. Some notable species that were observed during the monitoring period were: Palawan peacock-pheasant, Palawan Hornbill, Blue-naped Parrot, Blue-headed Racket-tail, Palawan flycatcher, Palawan Blue Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Bulbul, Palawan Babbler, Blue-breasted pitta, Crested serpent eagle, Oriental honey buzzard, Red-headed Flameback, Red-headed Flameback, Great Slaty Woodpecker, White-vented Shama, Philippine Megapode, Green imperial pigeon, Hill Myna, Dollarbird. Non-avian species that were observed: Philippine Temple Pit viper, Palawan Mangrove snake, Green Vine snake, Palawan Rock Frog, Philippine toad Palawan flying squirrel, Palawan Stink Badger (scent), and Palawan Bearded pigs. We also observed different flora like *Amorphophallus*, *Medinilla* and *Begonia* species. Please refer to Fig. 9 for photos.



**Figure 5.** Patrol team rescued one Palawan Hornbill hatchling from ant infestation and turned over to PWRCC ©KFI

## B. THREAT OBSERVATIONS

- Illegal activities and encroachment remained prevalent in Sta. Lucia and Luzviminda lowland forests.** We recorded newly-cleared sites, trees that were cut down, and charcoal production in some areas of Luzviminda forest while monitoring. Encroachment within the penal reservation is extending and vast. We recorded shanties (some with galvanized iron sheets) and vegetable/rice plantations. Through drone, we confirm the extent of the destruction of lowland forests in the area in contrast to April 2020 when we visited the same site. The team could not reach all cleared areas and the latter should be validated on the ground. Remaining small forest patches are on the brink of destruction also.



- On June 7, we discovered two Bayoso and a Sahing tree with an average height of 20m and diameter exceeding 100cm were cut using chainsaws, as well as kaingin and charcoal making during our monitoring in the area. According to our informants, these trees will be used to make furniture and will be sold in a furniture shop in Luzviminda. During said schedule, we did not have security escort hence, we were unable to fully document by photos the kaingin and charcoal making as four people were observed and a shanty nearby. The safety of the monitoring team composed of KFI and a PCSDS staff was our priority.
- *Wildlife poaching.* Four hatchlings of Blue-naped parrot which was recorded last month were confirmed poached this month. There were also signs that the nest tree had been climbed prior to our monitoring. Last month we reported four Philippine Cockatoos and two Hill Myna hatchlings missing from its nests in Montible.



**Figure 6.** Photo documentation of trees that were cut down (top) and aerial footage of kaingin in Luzviminda. ©KFI

#### IV. Other Highlights

- *Montible native trees nursery updates.* A total of 2,200 seedlings and wildlings of trees like Bayoso, Manggis, Putag, Gyro and Taluto were collected and planted in the Montible nursery for the month of June. We also constructed two growth chambers with the help of volunteer PDLs from the IPPF. These chambers will improve growth and survival of the wildlings. Some roofing repairs were also done to minimize the exposure of wildlings to sunlight. Meanwhile, bagging of soil is continuously done in preparation for future collection of seedlings and wildlings.

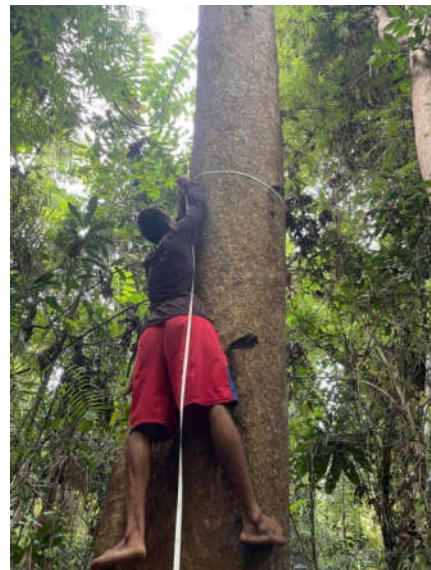




**Figure 7.** Snapshots of volunteer inmates and wildlife wardens working in the nursery  
©KFI

- Nest characterization. We started getting data of the nest trees occupied this year and were hatchlings had fledged completely (Fig. 8).

**Figure 8.** A wildlife warden measures the DBH of a nest tree within the penal reservation. ©KFI



## V. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- We had submitted official reports on the persistent lowland forest destruction in the areas and yet no concrete actions are done by authorities e.g. DENR. The IPPF are also doing its rounds and reporting and yet no action. We look forward to legal actions and prosecution to happen before it is too late. There was also hunting of the Hornbill reported in the past and yet we are not informed if the case was officially filed.

- Forest destruction and illegal occupation in IPPF grounds. Environmental laws especially PD 705 and RA 9147 should be enforced in full force hoping prosecution can deter further similar illegal activities.
- Unavailability of uniformed personnel during the patrols in Luzviminda and Sta. Lucia could help in apprehending violators within the IPPF area.
- The COVID 19 restrictions should not be a reason for lax law enforcement. These times more than ever, we think enforcement should be fully carried out because the violators are also making use of the same reason. We will continue our monthly patrols so long as we are able and allowed. We follow minimum health protocols.

## VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Lowland forests harbor more biodiversity than montane forests; thus, should be protected against encroachment and further destruction. If law enforcement continues to fail, it is best government invests and employ technological advances like that of rainforest connection that aims to combat illegal tree poaching by leveraging technological and social models to reduce reliance on human resources ([Rainforest Connection](#) | [Home \(rfcx.org\)](#))

## 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. Jerwin Jamili and Richard Ballena of PCSDS, Mr. Jessie Escandalio of DENR 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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**Figure 9.** Two Hill myna eggs in ANB (top-left); Three eggs of Hooded Pitta that were seen on the ground (top-right), Philippine Temple Pit viper near one of the nest trees of Katala (center-left); a dead Palawan Mangrove Snake (center-right); Red-tailed Green Rat Snake (bottom-left) and Peter Widmann identifying bird calls in Malabo forest (bottom-right).©KFI

