KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

April 2021 SUMMARY
Dumaran Island Critical Habitat
Dumaran, Palawan

6

Bilang ng nagawang patrolya

151.81

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng patrolya

32

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya

0

Bilang ng natanim

0

Bilang ng nai-report sa mga awtoridad

0

Bilang ng ilegal na gawain na naobserba

15

Pinakamataas na bilang sa tulugan ng Katala

4

Pinakamataas na grupong Talusi na nakita

30

Nakitang namumunga at namumulaklak na puno

Katala Foundation INCORPORATED

PHILIPPINE COCKATOO CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

09675176935

048-434-7693

kficacatua2016@gmail.com

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Prepared by:

Michael F. Plazos, Lemuel Pabico, Peter Widmann and Indira D. L. Widmann

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).

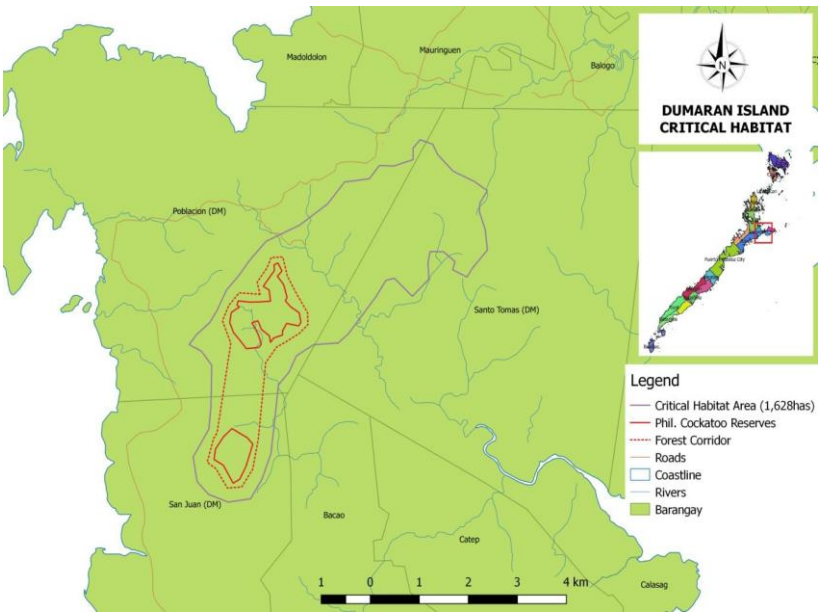

Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

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

The Dumaran Island Critical Habitat (DICH), comprising 1,628ha, 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 ca. 151.81 kms (see right) within the Omoi and Manangbaling Cockatoo Reserves, forested area within Bulalakaw, Candez and Kasipulo and coastal areas of Bgy. San Juan. There were 10 to 15 Cockatoos observed at the roost site during the month of April 2021. Most of the time, 15 cockatoos were observed. Fair weather was observed throughout the month.

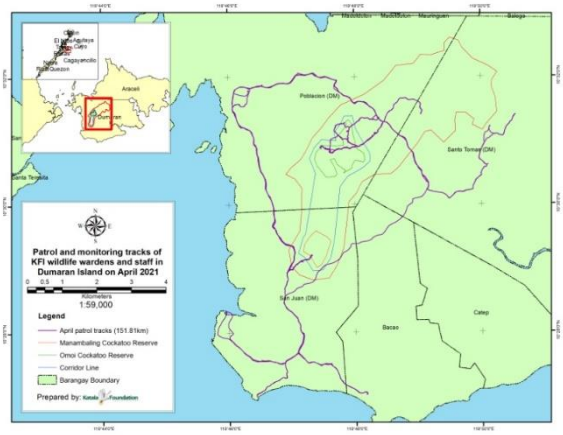

Figure 2. Patrol tracks of wardens for April 2021

III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

A. WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS OF TARGET SPECIES

Breeding Season Updates

Five known cockatoo nest trees were checked: One nest with two infertile eggs reported earlier is recorded to have a second clutch with one egg currently; while two others have hatchlings and two were unoccupied as of yet. Two artificial nest boxes (ANBs) are intensively monitored with camera traps and both are confirmed occupied by Cockatoos this year. This is the first on record that our ANBs are occupied. The third ANB is occupied by Hill Myna and with eggs.

As of April for the cockatoos, two eggs were documented rotten; two hatchlings died probably of tightness inside the chamber; one was found dead on the nest ground after probably attempting to escape predation and three others are regularly monitored. Supplemental feeding was done for hatchings which were documented to have few foods in the crop from two separate nest trees. No mites were observed. Three hatchlings were already banded this month.

Figure 3. First batch of cockatoos banded this year with new stainless steel leg bands (left and right) and a peep of a hatched cockatoo in one nest tree during monitoring (middle). Photo by KFI

Foraging

Trees inside and outside of the phenology plots at the two Cockatoo reserves were regularly monitored. Eight tree species inside the plots were recorded to be flowering and fruiting. These are the Iniol, Kulayan, Kalampinay, Magabo, Amuround, Pagatpat, and Amuyong. These are all food providing trees for the Cockatoos. Trees outside of the plots were also recorded to be fruiting and flowering. These are Amuraon, Balayong, Balite, Baslayan, Batbat, Betad, Berie, Binatalan, Binunga, Bunga-Bunga, Bunot- Bunot, Bunuang, Dangkalan, Iniol, Kalampinay, Kanomay, Kulayan, Lago, Luwas-Luwas, Mulawin, Nato, Olandeg, Panapuan, Saleng, Tagalilong, and Talisay.

Supplementation of natural population

There was no recent release of Cockatoos in the island. The 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.

We confirm that another individual from the released birds have bred this year in one of the artificial nest boxes installed. This is a milestone for us like Gold in the previous year. Gold this year was expelled by a Hill Myna from its nest. We continued observing whether this would change in the next weeks. Nest competition in Dumaran is very high among cavity-nesters.

Hornbill Monitoring and other cavity-nesters

Three nests of hornbill were checked: one has one egg while another one has hatchlings and the last one is unoccupied as of this reporting. Two ANBs intended for Hornbill were occupied by Gokgok with two eggs and Hill Myna as of yet with no egg. Through the camera trap footage, we documented one ANB that is frequented by the Palawan Hornbill but have no sign yet of occupation. Other wildlife recorded in the ANB camera trap were Tokay Gecko, squirrels and Blue-naped Parrot. There are two NPN (new potential nest) discovered and both monitored with eggs; one of the Hornbill and the other of the Gokgok. There were one to four hornbills observed and recorded during the current month in the areas of Omoi, Candez, Kasipulo, Manangbaling, Bacao, Poblacion, and Camaya. These low counts probably are due to females starting to be inside the nest for their breeding.

Figure 4. Some snap shots of the camera traps installed at DICH. Photo by KFI

Fifteen nests of Blue-naped Parrot were checked where 11 have hatchlings and four with eggs. Twelve nests of Blue-headed Racquet Tail were checked and ten of which have eggs and two nests with no sign of occupation. Two nests of Hill Myna were checked with 2 adults Hill Myna perching and making noise but no egg found yet. One Gokgok nest has eggs. Nest of White Collared Kingfisher have three hatchlings. A Dollarbird has six eggs in one of the ANBs installed in the past.

Other species recorded

Thirty- eight wildlife species were recorded this month in the reforestation site of Omoi and several Biodiversity System Monitoring (BMS) stations in the DICH. Endemic bird species recorded included Philippine Cockatoo, Palawan Hornbill, Blue-headed Racquet -tail, and and Blue-naped Parrot. Other bird species recorded were the Brown Shrike, Cattle Egret, Asian Glossy Starling among others. Non-avian species recorded were the Palawan Water Monitor, Palawan Horned Frog, squirrels, and rodents. Installed ground camera traps captured several wildlife which included the Palawan Bearded Pig, Long-Tailed Macaque, Red Jungle fowl, Tabon Scubfowl, squirrels, and monkeys.

IV. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

At the main nursery in Omoi we have 9,615 seedlings; most of them are Palomaria, Nato, and Dumaran. In Candez satellite nursery, there are currently 1,498 seedlings and 1,287 in Manangbaling satellite nursery. There was not enough water nearby for the collected seedlings/wildlings in the two satellite nurseries of Candez and Manambaling so wardens need to work harder for water supply. There are no seedlings in the growth chamber. No trees planted this month due to minimal rainfall. Candez area recorded 42mm rainfall from two daily occasions while Omoi area had 77mm from three daily occasions. The roost site in San Juan had no rainfall for the whole month.

V. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Kaingin (slash and burn) activities were observed this season outside the protected area and forested area. We have established good relations with the newly-installed Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO) of Dumaran and we report illegal activities to him regularly. Persistent IEC campaigns must be pursued and livelihood options must be offered by the government especially by the Department of Agriculture or other agencies. There was minimal rainfall observed within the month; hence, no planting was done.

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