

# KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

## May 2021 SUMMARY

### Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary and its environs, Narra, Palawan



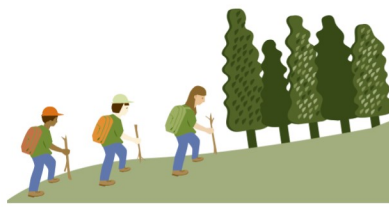
# 37

Bilang ng nagawang  
patrolya



# 0

Bilang ng illegal na  
kailangang aksyunan



# 437.83

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot  
ng patrolya



# 4

Bilang ng mga issues na  
nai-report sa PAMO



# 161.9

Kabuuang oras ng  
patrolya



# 0

Bilang ng naaresto



# 248

Pinakamataas na bilang sa  
tulugan ng Katala



# 31

Bilang ng ibang uri ng  
ibon na nakita



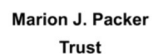
# 7

Uri ng halamang namumunga



# 132

Pinakamataas na bilang  
ng Katala sa kinakainan



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Biodiversity Management Bureau



09675176935



048-434-7693



kficacatua2016@gmail.com

The island is the pilot site of the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program since 1998. Due to intensive poaching, only 23-25 Philippine cockatoos were left on the island then. Key component of this project site is the warden scheme which involves ex-poachers as wildlife wardens whose main task is to patrol and protect the wildlife in particular the Philippine Cockatoo during and outside its breeding season. This scheme has proven to be efficient and lead to the dramatic recovery of the Philippine Cockatoo population to nearly 400 individuals as of to date. This makes RIWS the most important population of the species in the wild!

Not only Philippine Cockatoos live on the island, but a variety of other species, with an unusual high percentage of globally threatened and near-threatened taxa (IUCN 2019), considering the small size of Rasa. Noteworthy among the 112 recorded bird species are Red-headed Flameback *Chrysocolaptes erythrocephalus* (EN), Grey Imperial-pigeon *Ducula pickeringii* (VU) and Mantanani Scops-owl *Otus mantananensis* (NT).

### Conservation Objectives

1. Maintain the species diversity and function of ecosystems and species within Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary.
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

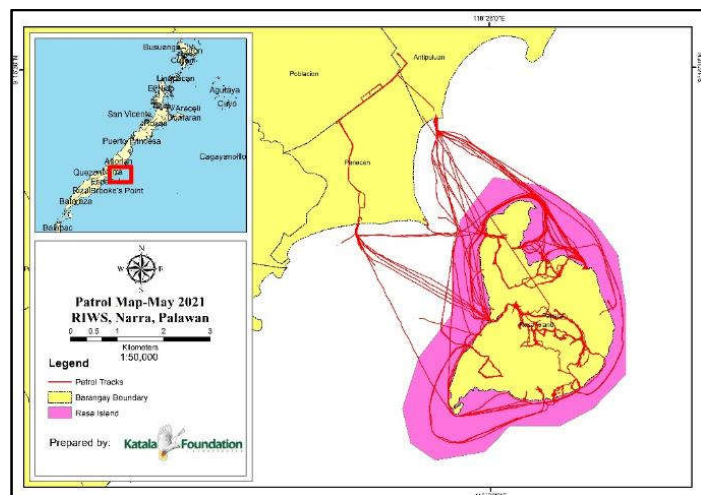
1. To increase Philippine Cockatoo population in Rasa Island and vicinity by at least 3% from 2018-2021.
2. Increase viable population of endangered and endemic target cavity-nesters e.g. Blue-headed Racquet-Tail, woodpeckers (Red-headed Flameback), owls, kingfishers etc. in Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary from 2018-2021.
3. Monitor and reduce threats in the area by 50% from 2018-2021; if any.

### 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/ArcGIS. Patrols are coordinated with the concerned barangay and protected area office wherever it applies.

## II. PATROL TEAM AND EFFORT

In May 2021, three teams of wardens checked 61 nest trees and one potentially occupied (inactive) nest tree on Rasa; of which 40 occupied and two potentially occupied nest trees were intensively monitored. The latter trees are Bogo and Gindaon; both dead yet indications of occupation are observed. The list also includes two newly discovered nest trees, both Pagatpat *Sonneratia alba*. We covered **437.83kms** total distance of monitoring on Rasa this month. Total of precipitation in May 2021: 213mm on Rasa and 251mm on mainland. As of May 30, we have recorded 92 total eggs of which 24 total eggs failed. Remaining seven eggs are to be verified because of deepened nest chambers. 61 of these eggs hatched and 11 failed. One fledged and remaining 49 hatchlings are still checked on nests. As of yet, 37 hatchlings were banded.



**Figure 2.** Patrol tracks for May 2021 by RIWS wardens.





**Figure 3.** Mark and Lucito collect biometrics and band hatchlings. ©KFI



**Figure 4.** Potential nest tree, dead Gindaon with indications of cockatoo occupation (left); Loreto conducts supplemental feeding (right) ©KFI

### III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

#### A. WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

On May 17, in the afternoon, Bernito recorded **248 individuals** of Philippine Cockatoos at the traditional roost site. No cockatoo was observed roosting at Borbon roost site and cockatoos were still observed sleeping in occupied nest trees. **132 individuals** were counted at Borbon station flying from Rasa to forage in Panacan and Panacan 2 from 5:55 to 8:12am. In the morning of May 17, the highest count at Marcelo area was recorded at 38 individuals. This month, more cockatoos were still observed foraging in the morning than in the afternoon. Monico also frequently recorded cockatoos passing on mangroves in Malinao and Caguisan.

Three individuals of Whimbrel were observed walking on coralline rocks at Villarias area on May 11. We also noted Red-headed Flameback, Blue-headed Racquet-tail, Tabon Scrubfowl, Nicobar Pigeon, Blue-Paradise Flycatcher, Changeable Hawk-eagle, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Great-billed Heron, Green Imperial-Pigeon, Rufous Night-heron, Osprey, Egret sp., Reef egret, Large-tailed Night-jar, Sunbird sp., Oriental Dwarf-kingfisher, Ashy Drongo, Swiftlet sp., Greater Coucal, Rufous-tailed Tailor-bird, Pipits, Asian Glossy Starling, Common Koel, Common Tern, Emerald Dove, Zebra Dove and Dollarbird. Monitor lizard was frequently encountered. Blue-naped parrot and Spotted Wood-owl were likewise frequently observed on Rasa. On May 9, Loreto observed two eggs of Large-tailed Night-jar at Alisto area. Two hatchlings were noted on May 24, and possibly fledged on May 26. On May 19, one Changeable Hawk-eagle (CHE) and nine cockatoos found perching on branch of

Pagatpat. Consequently, CHE looked around before flying towards sea leaving cockatoos undisturbed. Bernito observed one marine turtle on May 10, in front of Mareng area.

### ***Vegetation assessment***

In May 2021, fruiting trees and vines were Siar, Lomo-lomo, Tubo-bato, Buntot-daga, Bogo, Balete, Malugai, *Rhizophora* sp. and other mangrove species. Flowering trees and vines were Bogo, Gatasan, Magtalisay, *Rhizophora* sp. and other mangrove species. More wildlings are observed on ground and coastal area is on green state.

**Figure 5.** Malugai wildlings on coastal forest this month. Photo KFI



## **B. THREAT OBSERVATIONS**

The last stake of lobster pens/culture at Borbon, Panacan, was noted almost near the boundary of Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary (RIWS) with a distance of approximately 34m (stake to boundary) on May 18, 2021(Fig. 6). This was immediately reported to Office of the Municipal Agriculture (OMA) and Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) of RIWS to conduct immediate action in order to prevent conflict.



**Figure 6.** Monitoring of lobster pens/culture at Borbon, Panacan to determine the distance from last stake to RIWS boundary (left); Cut Pagatpat on NE Rasa, approx. 130mm diameter (right) ©KFI

On May 26, one person collected 5kgs of fish on northeast Rasa in 5hrs (Fig. 7). During our monitoring on June 1, we observed one recently cut Pagatpat (130mm diameter) at northeast part of Rasa Island (Fig. 6). No person and boat were observed around the area. No trace of cut timber was left in the area. Probably the timber will be used as a support for the front or bow of a boat. Likewise on the same date, we caught a cat on Dapdap area and brought to mainland that same day in the afternoon (Fig. 7). One cat however is still on the island as it escaped during capture. No person was seen around the area. Official report was sent on June 2 to PAMO. After several monitoring no cat was observed around the area.





**Figure 7.** One person fishing at NE Rasa on May 26 (left); Released cat from Rasa to mainland on June 1 (right) ©KFI

### III. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

PAMO personnel together with PASu Cruz tugged PAME boat from Rasa to mainland on May 27. It was officially turned over from KFI to PAMO during the recent regular PAMB meeting.

*Monitoring on marine resources on Rasa.* On May 3, one person collected 6kgs of mangrove crabs from B. Batac, Deig and Alisto area in three days while two persons gathered 17kgs of mangrove crabs from Deig and Alisto area. On May 10, 8kgs of mangrove crabs were collected by four persons from B. Batac and Deig area in 12hrs while two persons attempted to glean Bagongon from mangroves near B. Batac area but they had no catch for 5hrs.

*Monitoring on coconut plantations on Rasa.* No adverse human activities during visits. On May 25, Gil Ramos Jr., Jhem Jhem Cahilo and Jamil Cayao visited coconut areas in Dapdap. On May 26, four persons gathered six sacks of copra from B. Batac's coconut area in 10 days. On May 29, two persons collected 500pcs of copra from Alisto area for 6 days and on May 30, one person processed two sacks of charcoal out of coconut shells from B. Batac's area in two days.

### IV. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Prescriptions for each zonation must be disseminated by PAMO and with other PAMB members to encourage more active role in protection. Case filed against establishment of fish corral on Rasa must progress. Collection of fossilized Taklobo shells has been rampant even in other municipalities of Palawan hence intensive monitoring around Rasa at night is also encouraged.

Edwin informed the office that three goats at Dapdap area were retrieved to mainland by the owner, Pelayo. According to Edwin, J. Bautista, PAMO personnel visited Pelayo and he was also the one who told Edwin about the retrieval. This month, cats were also found at Dapdap area. Though one cat was brought to mainland, the other escaped and after several monitoring it was still unseen and uncaught. One Pagatpat was cut on NE Rasa on June 1. This was reported to PAMO as well as the foreseen entry of lobster pens to Rasa boundary if not regulated. We highly encouraged that more monitoring around the island should be conducted with the assistance from PAMO staff while wardens are occupied during breeding season of cockatoos.

## V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The PCCP acknowledges the key players on the ground: our wildlife wardens and mainland volunteers: REYNALDO ALBELAR, LORETO ALISTO, BERNITO BASIO, EDWIN BATAAC, MARIO BATAAC, LUCITO DANGIS, Veronica Marcelo, Danilo Villaruz, Monico Beleg and Antonio Marcelo.

Thank you very much to the LGU-Narra through the office of the Mayor and staff, Vice Mayor Lumba, now Acting Mayor and the municipal council, department heads, barangay officials, and everyone in the LGU for their unrelenting support and appropriation per year for our wardens and volunteers. Also we thank the Narra community for pursuing the cause of cockatoo conservation in Narra. We also thank the PAMO through PASu Pablo Cruz for his leadership and kind attention.

We are grateful to KFI family and board members for their help, assistance and sharing expertise and ideas.

We are indebted to the following organizations and agencies for providing funds for this project:



## References

- Critchlow, R., Plumtre, A.J., Alidria, B., Nsubuga, M., Driciru, M., Rwetsiba, A., Wanyama, F., and Beale, C.M. (2017). Improving Law-Enforcement Effectiveness and Efficiency in Protected Areas Using Ranger-collected Monitoring Data. Conservation Letters 10, 572-580.
- IUCN (2019). IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2016.1. ([www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)).
- Teacher, A.G.F., Griffiths, D.J., Hodgson, D.J., and Inger, R. (2013). Smartphones in ecology and evolution: a guide for the app-rehensive. Ecology and Evolution 3, 5268-5278.