

KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

October 2021 SUMMARY Dumaran Island Critical Habitat Dumaran, Palawan



12

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



180.1

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng
patrolya



28.81

Kabuuang oras ng
patrolya



6200

Bilang ng natanim



0

Bilang ng nai-report sa mga
awtoridad



0

Bilang ng ilegal na
gawain na naobserba



30

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



6

Pinakamataas na
grupong Talusi na nakita



7

Nakitang namumunga at
namumulaklak na puno





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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 leytenensis* (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).

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

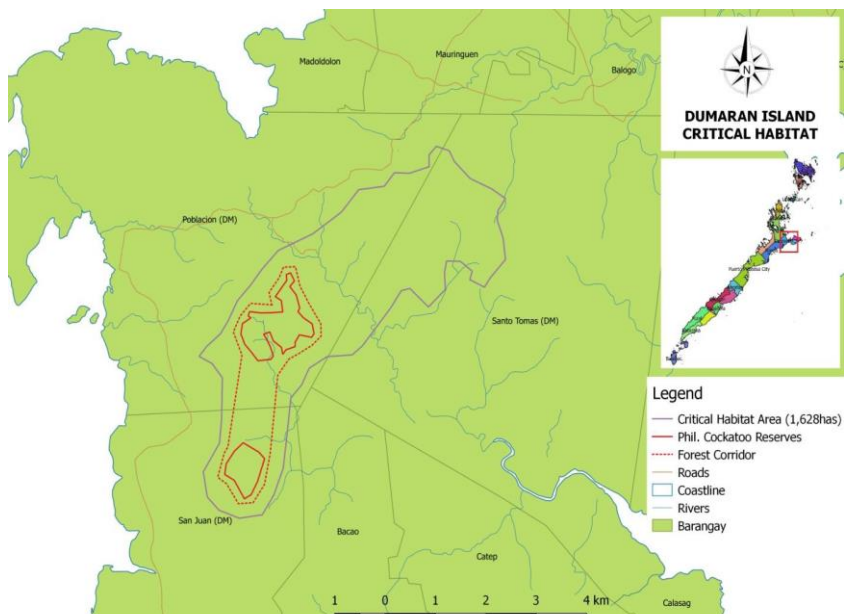


Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

The Dumarán 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

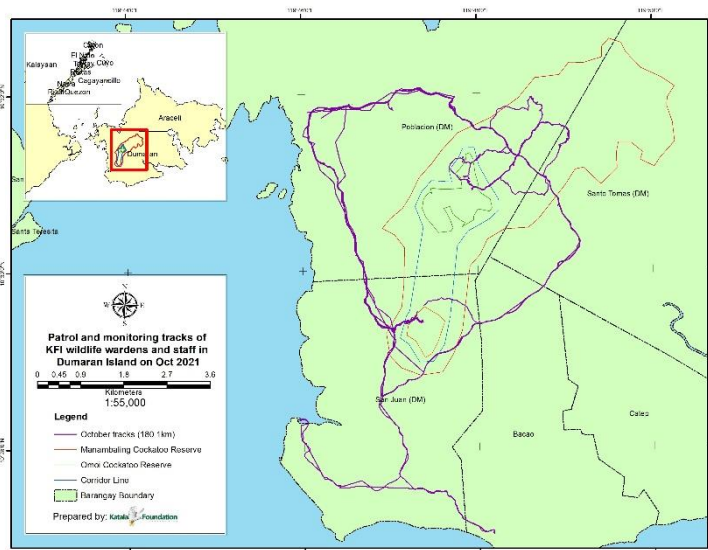
1. To stabilize cockatoo population on Dumarán Island, Dumarán from 2018-2021.
2. Increase viable population of endangered and endemic target cavity-nests e.g., Palawan Hornbill, Blue-naped Parrot, Blue-headed Racquet-Tail etc. in Dumarán from 2018-2021.
3. Reduce threats in the area by 50% from 2018-2021.

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-Dumarán 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. The wardens covered 180.1km of patrolling within the Omoi and Manangbaling Protected Area, forested area within Bulalakaw, Candez and Kasipulo and coastal areas of Bgy. San Juan. There are 15-30 Cockatoos observed at the roost site during the month of October 2021. Most of the time, 15 cockatoos were observed. Cloudy and fair weather was observed throughout the month. There are 3 to 12 Cockatoos (wild and released) observed perching, feeding and making noise on trees of Coconut, Malunggay, and Talisay at Bgy. Bacao. Cockatoos were observed passing and coming from West part of the said barangay every morning and flew to Northwest direction before 6:00PM.



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Figure 2. Patrol track for October 2021



Figure 3. A talk with Capt. Marquez of Bgy. Bacao (left) on the reported sightings of Cockatoo that were seen almost daily feeding on Malunggay tree in their barangay (right). @KFI

PATROL OBSERVATIONS

Supplementation of natural population

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: Anan, Bonog, Kulayan, Luwas-luwas, Bunog, Amuround and Pagatpat. These are all food providing trees for the Cockatoos. Trees outside of the plots were also recorded to be fruiting and flowering like: Agboy, Anan, Amumusing, Amuraon, Amuyong, Apatot, Balite, Barok, Batbat, Berrie, Binatalan, Binunga, Bunog, Bunot-Bunot, Casay, Catmon, Kandis, Kulayan. Imamangal, Inagdong, Iniam, Iniol, Luwas-Luwas, Talisay, Taluto, Taulili and Tebey.



Figure 3. The fruiting Pagatpat at Lagan area. @KFI

Hornbill Monitoring

There were two to six hornbills observed and recorded during the current month in the areas of Omoi, Candez, Kasipulo, Manangbaling, Bacao, Palokpok and Luyang. Some were making noise and others perched on Amugis, Latian, Kulayan, Acacia, Banaba, Talisay, Magabo, Cacao, Cashew, Basa, Langka, Binatalan, Maranggo, Narra, Gemilina and nearby the installed artificial nest box 3.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

There are 9,647 wildlings in the main nursery; most of them are Nato (3,522), and Palomaria (3,548). In Candez satellite nursery, there are currently 1,437 seedlings and 732 in Manangbaling satellite nursery. There are no seedlings in the growth chamber. There are 6,200 trees planted this month within Manangbaling area. Candez experienced a total of 334mm rainfall from eight daily occasions while Omoi area with 270mm from six daily occasions. Lagan with 243mm rainfall from eight daily occasion this month.

Figure 4. Wardens are bagging soil (left) to be used in potting of collected wildlings (right). @KFI



A welcome tarpaulin was installed in Dumarán Island right at the port area featuring the flagship species of Dumarán, the Palawan Hornbill and the slogan: Share a Place of Live.



Figure 5. A tarp prompts and encourages residents and visitors to save the remaining Palawan Hornbill, Philippine Cockatoos and other wildlife in Dumarán.

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you very much to the LGU-Dumaran through the leadership of Mayor Arnel Caabay, Vice Mayor Pablo and their able staff, Municipal Administrator Alberto Ajud, MENRO Caabay, all department heads, barangay officials, and everyone in the LGU for helping us always with utmost attention.

We are indebted to our deputized wardens of Dumaran: Nestor Arzaga, Orlando Balmonte, Felipe Condesa, Eddie Derecho, Angelu Paduga, Maximo Pineda and volunteers Domingo Sy and Andres Aurelio for their services and efforts provided to the KFI-PCCP Dumaran project.

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