

KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

September 2021 SUMMARY Dumaran Island Critical Habitat Dumaran, Palawan



23

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



255.49

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng
patrolya



57.28

Kabuuang oras ng
patrolya



6152

Bilang ng natanim



0

Bilang ng nai-report sa mga
awtoridad



0

Bilang ng ilegal na
gawain na naobserba



28

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



6

Pinakamataas na
grupong Talusi na nakita



28

Nakitang namumunga at
namumulaklak na puno





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

September 2021

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 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.

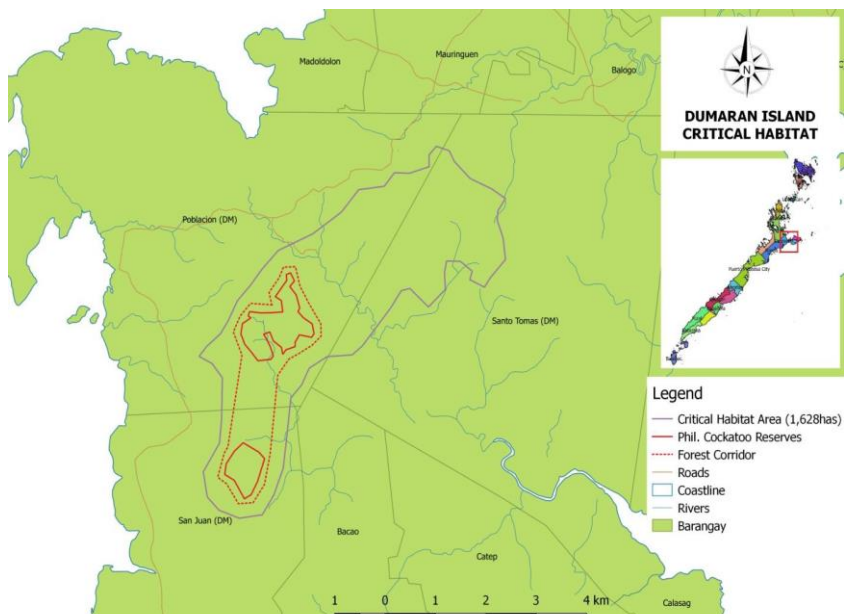


Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

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 about 255.49km of patrolling within the Omoi and Manangbaling Protected Area, forested area within Bulalakaw, Candez and Kasipulo and coastal areas of Bgy. San Juan. Two driftwood used for artificial nest boxes were also collected. There were 14-28 cockatoos observed at the roost site during the month; the highest count for the month was the highest number of observed cockatoos for the year in the roost site. Most of the time (nine times), 20 cockatoos were observed; this number was also the number of cockatoos that mostly frequent the roost last month. Cloudy and rainy weather was observed throughout the month with heavy rainfalls experience on the 24th and 25th of the month. There were four to ten cockatoos (wild and released) observed perching, making noise on trees of

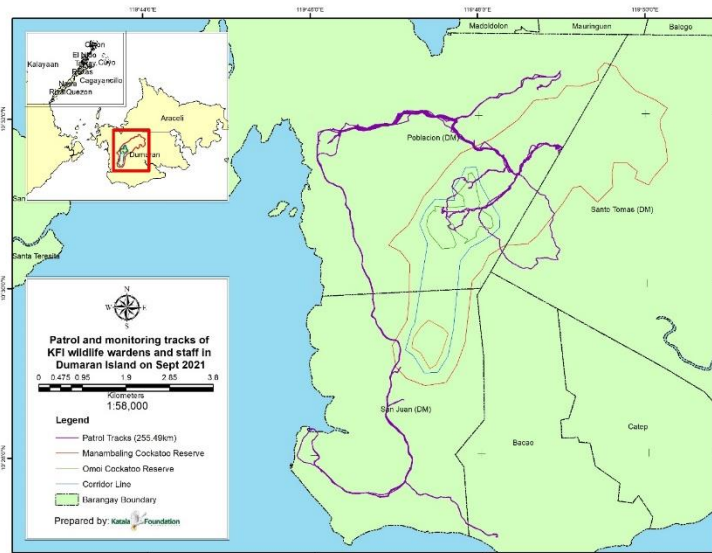


Figure 2. Map of patrol tracks covered by the wildlife wardens for the month of September

Gmelina, Coconut, Malunggay, Narra, Talisay, Balite, and Olandeg at Bgy. Bacao. Cockatoos were observed passing and coming from the east part of the said barangay every morning. No threats were observed during patrolling but the cut trees recorded last month were still present in the area.

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 shoed 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 the Anan, Kulayan, Luwas-luwas, Bunog, Amuraon, Pagatpat and Casay. Some of the trees have excessive leaf fall and moderate leaf growth. These are all food providing trees for the cockatoos. Twenty-eight trees outside of the plots were also recorded to be fruiting and flowering. These are Agboy, Amuaron, Anan, Bangkal, Barok, Batbat, Betad, Berrie, Bunot-Bunot, Bunog, Casay, Catmon, Dangkalan, Domalta, Duguan, Dumaran, Imamangal, Inagdong, Kalampinay, Kulayan, Lamoto, Luwas-Luwas, Mulawin, Olandeg, Panapuan, Saleng, Tagalilong and Tagpe.



Figure 3. Fruiting Banaba, Pagatpat and Tagalilong (from left to right). @KFI

Hornbill Monitoring

There were two to six hornbills observed and recorded during the current month in the areas of Omoi, Candez, Kasipulo, Manangbaling, and Bulalakaw. Some were making noise and others perched on Kulayan, Binatalan, Coconut, Cashew, Ipil, Taluto, Kamagong, Acacia, Mango and Ilang-Ilang. Most of the observations were recorded in Omoi (eleven daily observations).

Other Wildlife Species

A total of 56 wildlife species were recorded in several biodiversity monitoring system (BMS) stations and in the reforestation area. Included in this are cavity nesters such as Blue-naped Parrot, Blue-headed Racquet-tail, Dollarbird, and Hill Mynah. Migrant bird species like the

Cattle Egret and the Brown Shrike were also recorded. Commonly observed species like the Asian Glossy Staling, Lovely Sunbird, Zebra Dove, Spotted Dove, and Spiderhunter were also seen. Non-avian species were also sighted which include the Palawan Pangolin, Palawan Forest Turtle, Asian Box Turtle, Palawan Water Monitor, and Palawan Tree Squirrel.

Ground camera traps recorded Long-tailed Macaque, Palawan Bearded Pig, Philippine Megapode, Common Emerald Dove, Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel, Red-bellied Pitta, Hooded Pitta, Palawan Tree Shrew, Red Junglefowl, Civet Cat, Slender-billed Crow, and, Palawan Water Monitor.



Figure 4. Palawan Bearded Pig (left) and Red Junglefowl (right) captured in the camera traps

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

There are currently 7,559 wildlings in the main nursery; most of them are Nato (3,236), Palomaria (2,243) and Dumaran (1,111); a total of 203 wildlings died in the main nursery. In Candez satellite nursery, there are currently 1, 442 seedlings after deduction of dead wildlings (16) and planted wildlings (27). In Manangbaling satellite nursery, there are currently 1,237 wildlings. There are no seedlings in the growth chamber. Regular nursery works including

watering of wildlings and nursery maintenance were also conducted; the roofing of the nursery was also replaced.

There were 6,152 trees planted this month; 419 of these were planted in Aranlegan Area for the Civil Service Celebration of the Dumaran-LGU (112 attendees) while the rest were planted in Bulalakaw Area. Most of the 18 species planted were Palomaria (1354), Baslayan (1311), and Nato (1198). Candez area experienced a total of 542mm rainfall from 21 daily occasions while Omoi area with 614mm from 22 occasions. Lagan with 326mm rainfall from 13 daily occasion this month.



Figure 5. Montage of nursery works (left) and tree-planting activities for September (right)

Meetings attended

KFI also participated in several meetings this month. Regular Municipal Development Council meeting was attended in which PALCOTECH project was talked about. M. Plazos also attended a workshop facilitated by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) together with Department of Agriculture Staff, Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC), Office of Provincial Agriculture, and Western Philippines University (WPU). Agenda discussed were the formulation of a municipal enforcement plan, fisheries management plan, and marine protected area financial sustainability plan.



Figure 6. KFI attended the meeting facilitated by WWF

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. Stakeholders working for the betterment of Dumarán Island should work hand in hand for more fruitful collaboration and result.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you very much to the LGU-Dumarán 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 Dumarán: 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 Dumarán project.

Great thanks also to the PCSDS and DENR-ROXAS for their support. We are grateful to the whole KFI family and supporters 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., Plumptre, 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 2019.1. (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.