

KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY August 2021 SUMMARY Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary and its environs, Narra, Palawan



21

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



0

Bilang ng illegal na
kailangang aksyunan



130.64

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot
ng patrolya



0

Bilang ng mga issues na
nai-report sa PAMO



66.27

Kabuuang oras ng
patrolya



0

Bilang ng naaresto



289

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



36

Bilang ng ibang uri ng
ibon na nakita



73

Pinakamataas na bilang
ng Katala sa kinakainan



5

Uri ng halamang namumunga



09675176935



048-434-7693



kficacatua2016@gmail.com



KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

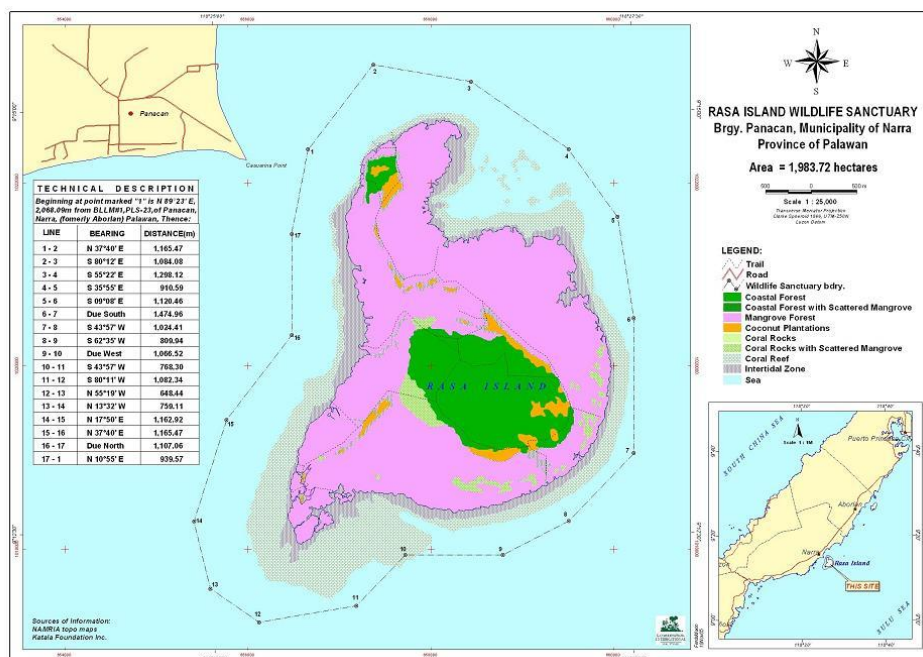
AUGUST 2021

Prepared by:

Anna Rose Agullo, Mark Quinit, Peter Widmann and Indira D. L. Widmann

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSERVATION AREA, CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES, CONSERVATION TARGETS AND METHODS

Rasa is a small coral island of 8.34 km² land area situated in the Sulu Sea, just offshore of the Municipality of Narra, Palawan, Philippines (Fig. 1). About 1.75 km² are covered with coastal forest, mangrove (5.60 km²), cultivated areas (predominantly coconut; 0.39 km²), 0.60 km² are barren or sparsely vegetated sand and coral outcrops. In February 2006, the island became a Wildlife Sanctuary through Presidential Proclamation 1000 and since a Protected Area Management Board manages the Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary (RIWS). In 2008, RIWS was chosen as Top 13 Bird Watching Sites in the Philippines by the Department of Tourism.



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

71 nest trees were visited in August 2021. Indications of cockatoo visits and roosts are still noted. About 18 cockatoo individuals were noted around a nest on coastal forest during our visit on Aug. 24. Fledglings were frequently observed with adult cockatoos both on Rasa and on mainland. Data loggers in nest trees were also checked. On Aug. 7, Reynaldo, Lucito and Loreto spotted recently collapsed branch from a live Bogo nest tree (Fig. 3). Its branch with the nest hole was rotten and fell due to strong wind. This nest tree is not occupied since 2020 and we observe six cockatoos on Aug. 12. While on Aug. 24, one rotten Piyagaw, mangrove sp. fell (10in dia., 7m high) (Fig. 4). In this period, we covered a total distance **130.64kms** of monitoring around Rasa.

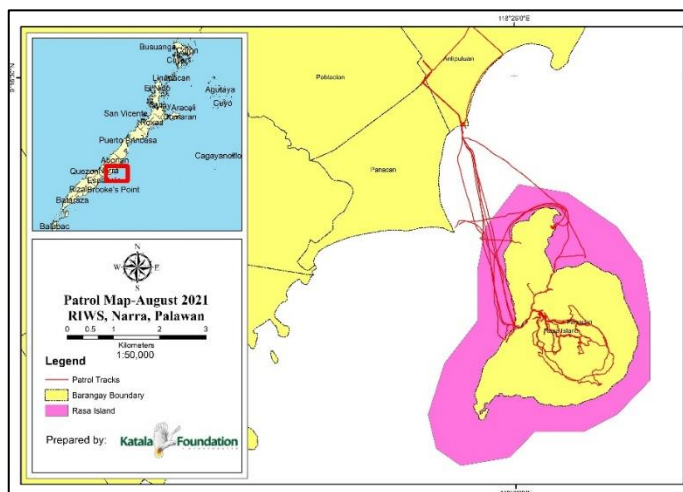


Figure 2. Patrol tracks in August 2021 in red marks

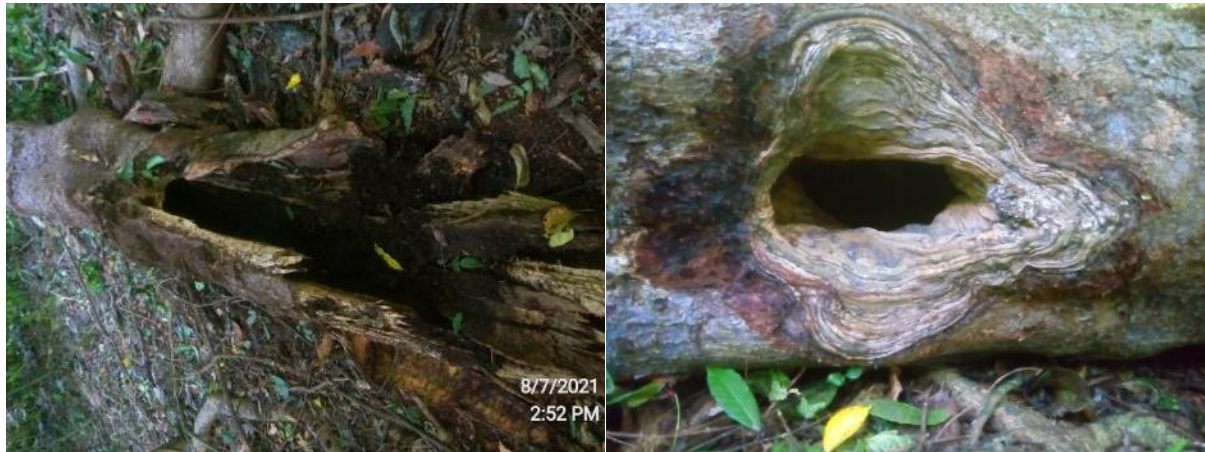


Figure 3. Collapsed branch with nest hole at coastal forest of Rasa ©KFI



Figure 4. Collapsed Piyagaw on Rasa coastal and mangrove boundary ©KFI

III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

A. WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

289 individuals were recorded at the traditional roost site alone and dispersing in the morning of Aug. 17 though some cockatoos on nest trees were also noted in this period. On Aug. 26 PM and 27 AM we counted 231 and 230ind respectively at the traditional roost site. No cockatoos were observed sleeping at Villarias, Asinan and Alisto mangroves, Borbon roost site and Caguisan.

Less cockatoos were observed crossing from Rasa to mainland and vice versa with **73 individuals** as the highest count recorded on Aug. 31 at Borbon station. Similarly, few cockatoos were observed in other monitoring stations. At Marcelo area, one of the foraging sites, we recorded 23ind on Aug. 29. The local community at Marcelo's place concurred with the infrequent visits of the cockatoos in the area probably because most Malunggay are not ripe yet and birds may have ventured in other areas where more Malunggay or food is available.

For this month, we noted Tabon Scrubfowl, Blue-headed Racquet-tail, Red-headed Flameback, Nicobar Pigeon, Western Osprey, Egret sp., Mantanani Scops-owl, Spotted Wood-owl, Changeable Hawk-eagle, Blue-Paradise Flycatcher, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Great-billed Heron, Rufous Night-heron, Fruit-dove sp., Green Imperial-Pigeon, Common Tern, Whimbrel, Swiftlet sp., Emerald Dove, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Sunbird sp., Oriental Dwarf-kingfisher, White-collared Kingfisher, Large-tailed Night-jar, White-vented Shama, Ashy Drongo, Reef egret, Greater Coucal, Pied Fantail, Common Koel, Dollarbird, Pipits, Asian Glossy Starling,

Rufous-tailed Tailor-bird, and Zebra Dove. Monitor lizard was also frequently encountered. Some are captures of the camera traps we have installed in different areas in Rasa.

Blue-naped Parrot was still observed on Aug. 9. Six Blue-headed racquet-tails were perched near Satina area. Lucito heard from boardwalk 2ind of Mantanani Scops-owl calling from mangroves on Aug 9 at 7:18pm. Bernito observed marine turtle on west Rasa on Aug. 29.



Figure 5. Camera trap footages on Rasa in August 2021: Tabon scrubfowl (top) and Monitor lizard (bottom) ©KFI

On the mainland, Monico noted 8ind of Blue-headed Racquet-tail perching on Pagatpatan at Tandol Batang-Batang on Aug. 15 at 5:52pm. Also, he frequently heard Rufous Night-heron around his area at Princess Urduja.

Vegetation assessment

Dapdap area exhibits slightly dry canopy while coastal and mangrove forest comprising the areas near boundary are in greener state. More wildlings are noted on ground. Fruiting trees and vines include: Bogo, Barenbon, Balete, Kanomay, *Rhizophora* sp. and other mangrove species. Flowering trees and vines: Magtalisay, Tangal, *Rhizophora* sp. and other mangrove species. Total precipitation in August 2021 was: **137mm** on Rasa, **144mm** on mainland (Marcelo area).



Figure 6. Dapdap area with slightly dry canopy (top left); Fruiting and flowering *Rhizophora* sp. (top right); Inner and boundary of Rasa coastal forest (middle and bottom) ©KFI

THREAT OBSERVATIONS

On Aug. 20, the distance of lobster traps at Borbon, Panacan to Rasa boundary is the same as our last visit in July 31 (Fig. 7).

Figure 7. Last stake of lobster traps at Borbon closest to Rasa boundary at approximately 15m ©KFI



III. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring of marine resources on Rasa.

On Aug. 5, one person collected 10kgs of mangrove crabs at Deig and Alisto areas in 3 days. On Aug. 6, one person collected 8kgs of lato at Satina tidal flat in 3hrs. On Aug. 14, one person gathered 8kgs of octopus from northeast Rasa for 5hrs. On Aug. 15, two persons gathered two pails of tuway (bivalves) from Satina area for 3hrs. On Aug. 20, Richard Cawili with six more persons from Purok Pagasa, Antipuluan gleaned 1kg of lato at northeast Rasa for 1hr (Fig. 8). On Aug. 21, one person collected 6kgs of lato from Satina tidal flat in 3hrs; and another two persons gleaned 10kgs of lato from entrance to Rasa camp in 3hrs.



Figure 8. Bernito speaks to Richard Cawili while gleaning on northeast Rasa ©KFI

Monitoring at coconut plantations on Rasa. No adverse human activities during visits. On Aug. 8, four persons harvested 1,300pcs of copra from Espinosa coconut area in one week. On Aug. 14, two persons collected 1,280pcs of copra from Dapdap coconut area in one week; and three persons collected 700pcs of copra at C. Batac area in four days.

On Aug. 12, 2021, Narra Youth Organization for Environmental Conservation (NYOFEC) celebrated the International Youth Day by planting Malunggay seedlings along the way to Katala Institute at Bgy. Antipuluan, Narra, Palawan (Fig. 9).



Figure 9. NYOFEC joins International Youth Day through tree planting at Katala Institute, Narra

IV. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Owners of lobster traps at Borbon, Panacan must be informed to not encroach inside Rasa boundary. Prescriptions for each zonation must be finalized and disseminated by PAO 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.

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., 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 2016.1. (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.