

# KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

## June 2022 SUMMARY Dumaran Island Critical Habitat Dumaran, Palawan



12

Bilang ng nagawang  
patrolya



32.22

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng  
patrolya



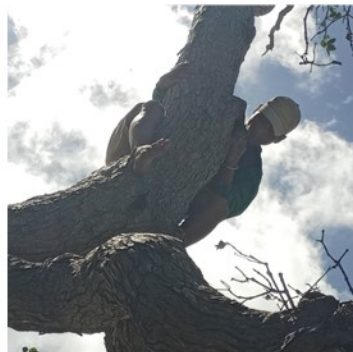
8.69

Kabuuang oras ng  
patrolya



6621

Bilang ng natanim



23

Bilang ng nabisitang pugad at  
ANB ng mga cavity nesters



0

Bilang ng ilegal na  
gawain na naobserba



16

Pinakamataas na bilang sa  
tulugan ng Katala



4

Pinakamataas na  
grupong Talusi na nakita



30

Nakitang namumunga at  
namumulaklak na puno





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**June 2022**

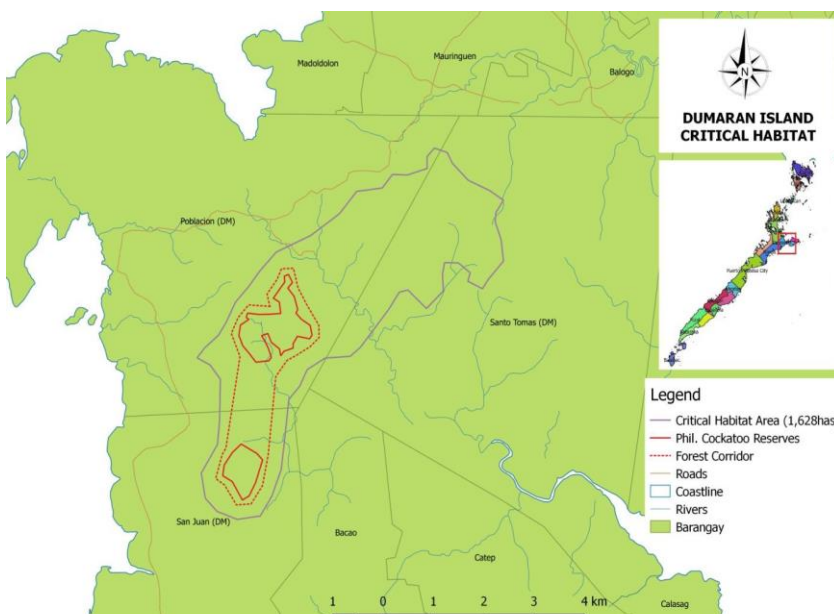
Prepared by:

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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 the 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 a 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 populations 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).



**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 Dumarán.

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. Increased number of Philippine Cockatoo breeding pairs on Dumarán by at least 20% by 2024 (Baseline: average breeding pairs 2019 to 2021: 5.0);
2. Increased percentage points in KAPP survey results by at least 20%;
3. Pursued supplementation of Philippine Cockatoos using suitable rescued birds;
4. Reforested or enrichment-planted at least eight hectares per year;
5. Reduced threats in the area by 50% from 2022-2024.

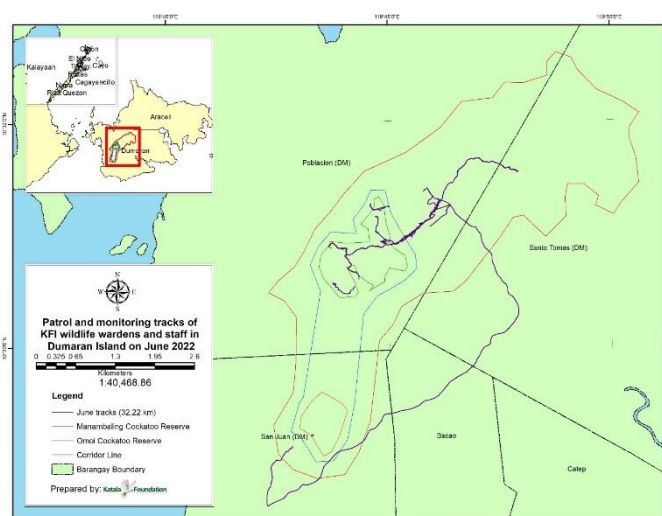
### Methods

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 them to a smart application to generate reports (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 ArcGIS. Patrols are coordinated with the concerned barangay, LGU, and Bantay-Dumarán wherever it applies.

## II. PATROL TEAM AND EFFORT

Regular monitoring of forested areas inside and outside the DICH were conducted by KFI staff and wardens: Michael Plazos, Nestor Arzaga, Orlando Balmonte, Felipe Condesa, Eddie Derecho, Angelu Paduga, Maximo Pineda and volunteers Domingo Sy and Andres Aurelio.

The team recorded fruiting trees, threats, and other wildlife observed. Suitable driftwoods to be used as artificial nest boxes (ANB) were also collected if available. Nest monitoring and checking were also conducted in which 14 nest trees of several cavities were visited.



**Figure 2.** Patrol tracks of wildlife wardens in June@ KFI

Monthly patrols covered 32.22km distance from 12 patrols and 8.69 hours within the Omoi and Manangbaling Protected Areas, forested area within Bulalakaw, Camaya, Candez, Kasipulo, and San Juan. No threats were observed during monitoring and remains of sewed-cut timbers (felled trees during Typhoon Odette) were prevalent in the area.

Regular monitoring in the roost was conducted for the month. Eleven to 16 cockatoos were observed at the site. There were mostly thirteen in the roost every morning (16 times) and afternoon counts (17 times). Cloudy and fair weather was observed with two days of scattered weak rainfall.

## PATROL OBSERVATIONS

### *Philippine Cockatoo breeding season assessment and monitoring*

Three Philippine Cockatoo nests were monitored. One nest has no sign of occupation and the two other nests were recorded to have signs of occupation e.g., cut twigs at the base of trees and sometimes visiting cockatoos but no eggs ever yet recorded.



**Figure 3.** Signs of occupation recorded in nest trees include cut twigs and feathers (left); visiting cockatoos on one of the nest trees (center); and a wildlife warden as he climbs a tree (right). @ KFI

### **Supplementation of natural population**

Released birds in 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, and Bgy. San Juan. No rescued hatchlings were recorded yet in Dumaran and none for release yet so far. Three ANB of the said species were recorded with cut twigs on the ground, feathers, and feces on nests and roosting cockatoos. A camera trap used to monitor one of the ANBs revealed that cockatoos are roosting in these boxes and emerge from the ANBs between 5AM and 6PM. They initially perched on a nearby tree before flying to forage and then go back to the ANB between 5PM and 6PM. Movement in the night was also recorded through the camera traps. Tagged cockatoos were recorded visiting the ANBs.





**Figure 4.** Observation of visiting cockatoos in an ANB @ KFI

The barangay captain of San Juan told one of our volunteers that three to four tamed cockatoos frequent the corn plantation of some barangay residents. Dumaran residents knew that feeding and taking care of cockatoos are prohibited, and thus, get rid of them whenever they went to houses and fields.



**Figure 5.** Corn consumed by cockatoos allegedly those released ones as claimed by residents of Bgy. San Juan @ KFI

### ***Foraging***

Most of the trees in the phenology plots of Omoi, Candez, and Manangbaling were not fruiting except for Kulayan, Kalampinay, Taluto, and Pagatpat. Trees in these plots are in various stages of leaf growth and abscission. In Lagan phenology plots, all trees of Pagatpat were flowering and fruiting with no visible leaf loss.

Thirty food-providing trees were recorded during this month. These are Apatot, Banaba, Banga, Bangkudo, Barok, Baslayan, Berie, Binunga, Bunuang, Catmon, Dangkalan, Kalampinay, Kulayan, Kuliati, Imamangal, Inagdong, Iniam, Inioli, Ipil, Lapnog, Luwas-Luwas, Magabo, Pagatpat, Panapuan, Saleng, Tagalilong, Taluto and Tebey.

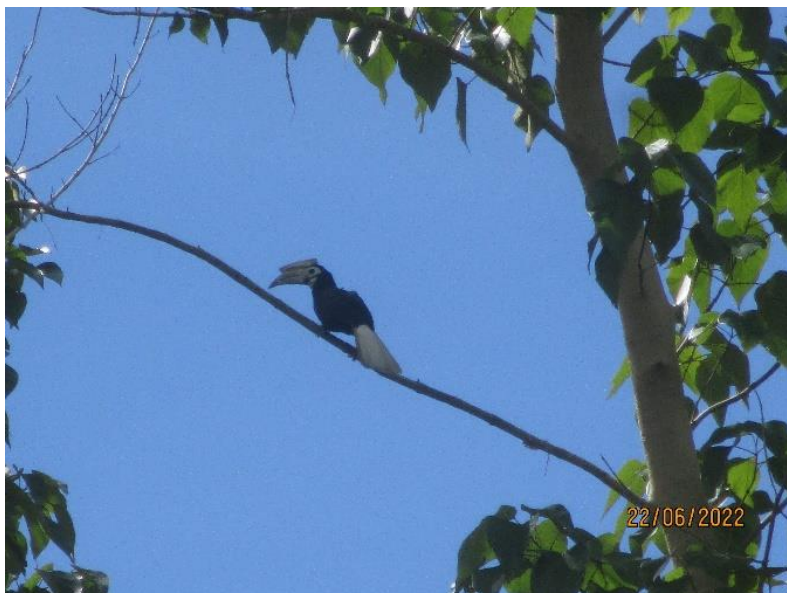




**Figure 6.** Flowering Kuliat (top-left) and fruits of Bituun (top-right), Balun-saging (bottom-left), and Tagulilong (bottom-right). @ KFI

### **Palawan Hornbill Monitoring**

There were one to four hornbills observed during monitoring on nine areas in the island namely: Omoi, Candez, Kasipulo, Manangbaling, Bacao, Otok, Luyang, Poblacion and Baing. They were observed calling, perching, and making noise on Cashew, Catmon, Kulayan, Mangroves, Coconut, Taluto, Domalta, Maniksik, Mango, Ipil, and Acacia trees and calling from the forested area, nursery main, and coconut plantation. Two hornbill nests were monitored but no signs of occupation observed.



**Figure 7.** A Palawan Hornbill recorded during monitoring @ KFI

### **Other cavity nesters**

Three known Blue-naped Parrot nests have two fledglings each while a recently discovered nest of the species has two fledglings. Four Blue-headed Racket-tail nests were visited including newly discovered nests; the latter has two fledglings while one of the known nests has three fledglings. Other cavity nester species with recorded nests were the Red-headed Woodpecker (two nests with one nest having two fledglings), White-bellied Woodpecker with one nest having one fledgling, and one White-collared Kingfisher nest with two fledglings.

Five ANBs were occupied by several cavity nesters. Three of these were occupied by the Oriental Dollarbird; four hatchlings were recorded in one of these nests. One was occupied by a Brown Hawk Owl with two fledglings. Another was occupied by a Blue-naped Parrot with one fledgling.

### **Other wildlife species**

Thirty-nine species were observed in the Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) stations in DICH while 43 species were recorded at the reforestation site. Twenty species were recorded in both areas and these are: Palawan Hornbill, Common Iora, Blue-naped Parrot, Hooded Pitta, Spotted Dove, Palawan Monitor Lizard, Dollar bird, Black-naped Oriole, Storked-billed Kingfisher, Hill myna, Asian Glossy Starling, Red Jungle-fowl, Pink Necked-green Pigeon, Blue-Headed Racquet-tail, Zebra Dove, Barred Button Quail, Yellow-throated Leafbird, Lovely Sunbird, Bar-bellied Cuckoo Shrike.



**Figure 8.** Perched White-collared Kingfisher (left); and hatchlings of a Palawan Bulbul (right) @ KFI

Ground camera trap recorded wildlife such as Tabon Scrubfowl, Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel, Hooded Pitta, and Long-tailed Macaque.

### **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

There are currently 9202 wildlings in the main nursery after 239 were collected by wildlife wardens and 4898 released for planting. Most of the wildlings are Nato, Palomaria, and Dumaran. The same number of wildlings were recorded in Candez satellite nursery (1289); no wildlings died nor were released in the said nursery. In Manambaling satellite nursery there are 1229 wildlings after 98 were released for planting and three were collected. There are no wildlings in the growth chamber. Regular activities in the nursery e.g., potting, watering, and cleaning, were continuous. Highest rainfall record was recorded in Candez monitoring station i.e., 310mm followed by Omoi monitoring station i.e., 274mm. Lagan experienced the least rainfall, with only 27mm rainfall.





**Figure 9.** Wildlife recorded in ground camera traps: Hooded Pitta (top-left); Tabon Scrubfowl (top-right); Long-tailed Macaque (bottom-left); and Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel (bottom-right). @ KFI



**Figure 10.** Regular activities in the nursery include potting and cleaning of wildlings. @ KFI

A total of 6621 wildlings were planted for this month. Included in this were the 1000 wildlings planted during the recent Kalabukay Festival. The remaining 5621 wildlings were planted in Omoi reforestation area. Planted wildlings belong to seven species which are Baslayan (1276), Iniol (200), Ipil (100), Magabo (450), Narra (250), Nato (2365), Palomaria (1980).





**Figure 11.** and tree planting activity during the Kalabukay Festival (bottom) . @ KFI

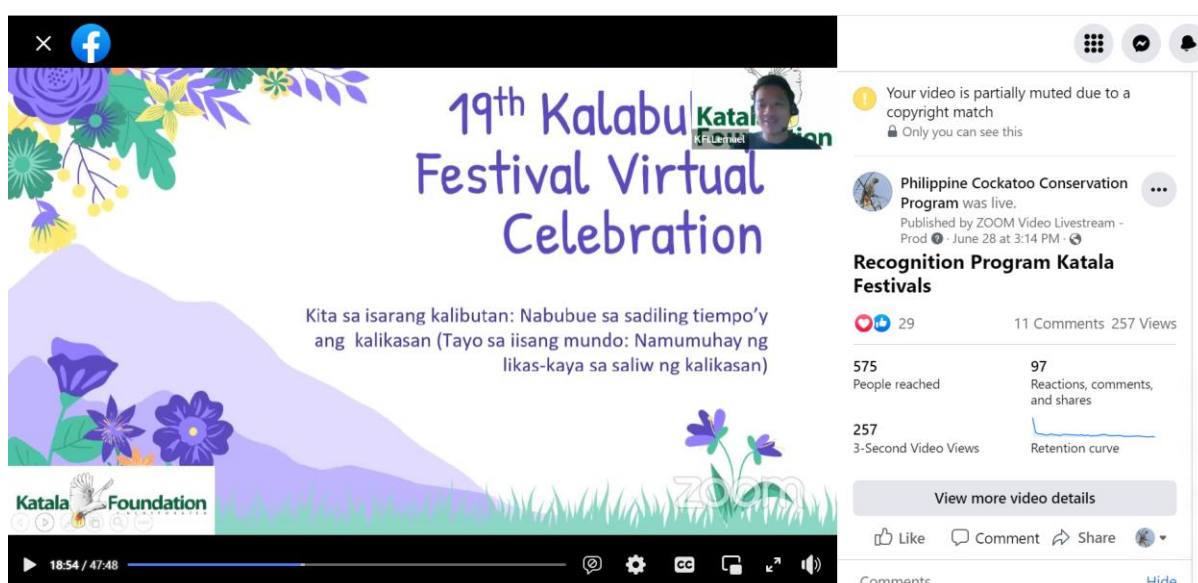
KFI-Dumaran participated in a tree-planting facilitated by Dumaran LGU last June 7, 2022. One-hundred fifty (150) wildlings were released from the nursery for the said activity. They also participated in the Kalabukay Festival parade last June 18, 2022 and in the tree-planting activity last June 19, 2022. We have also participated in regular meetings such as ECAN board meeting (June 16, 2022) and MDC meeting (June 23, 2022). KFI was also awarded the Gawad Lakas Galing Dumareño 2022 on June 25, 2022 for their contribution to the growth and development of the municipality of Dumaran.



**Figure 12.** KFI received two awards during the Gawad Lakas Galing Dumareño 2022. @ KFI

The closing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Kalabukay Festival was held on June 28, 2022, live on the Facebook Page of PCCP alongside the closing of the Katala Festival on Narra. Participants in the photo essay, photo poem, show me a picture, bilao art contest, and know me paint me were awarded for their participation. Their works were also published on the page to bring awareness to our followers on the importance of education towards conservation. A total of 575 people was reached with 333 engagements during the live ceremony. The LGU of Dumaran has disbursed the cash incentives for the participating winners for the contests.





**Figure 13.** Closing ceremony of the 19<sup>th</sup> Kalabukay Festival last June 28, 2022 @ KFI

The distribution of housing aid for the victims of Typhoon Odette was concluded this month. Monitoring of each household will be continually moving forward. Construction of the KEEC has started this month.



**Figure 14.** Construction works started in KEEC (top); and monitoring of housing material recipients in Dumarán (bottom). @ KFI



## ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

With the change in the local administration in Dumaran, we are hoping to continue the fruitful partnership with the local government unit. Enforcement should be strengthened to prevent mismanagement of forested areas and resources, inside and outside the critical habitat. Kaingin practices should be monitored so that they will not extend inside the DICH especially in the two cockatoo reserves.

Threats to be mitigated by the presence of patrollers include increased forest encroachment, including the creation and widening of logging trails, as well as timber poaching of standing trees outside CH that may span inside.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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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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