

KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

June 2022 SUMMARY
IPPF-PPC, Palawan



16

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



213.79

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng
patrolya



100.27

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya



4

Bilang ng illegal na
aktibidades



0

Bilang ng naaresto



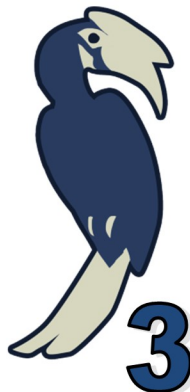
1605

Bilang ng halaman sa nursery



45

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



3

Pinakamataas na
grupo ng Talusi na nakita



25

Pinakamataas na bilang ng
katala sa kinakainan



12

14

Bilang ng pugad na may in-
dikasyon ng cavity nester



Bilang ng inakay ng Katala
at iba pang cavity nester



Katala Foundation
INCORPORATED



Anonymous
Donor



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KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY IWAHIG PRISON AND PENAL FARM (IPPF)

June 2022

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

IPPF is part of a larger landscape, the Sulu Sea plain, which comprises the lowlands of central Palawan facing the Sulu Sea and including areas of Puerto Princesa City and the municipalities of Narra and Aborlan. The area is bordered by the Victoria-Anepahan Range to the west and the Sulu Sea to the east; the northern edge runs roughly along 9° 47' N, the southern along 9° 9' N. Philippine Cockatoos have long been known to persist in the IPPF south of Puerto Princesa City. More recent are flocks of cockatoos from Rasa feeding on the mainland of Narra, and from Iwahig Penal Colony feeding in coastal areas of Puerto Princesa City, particularly in the compound of the Western Command (WESCOM) and Bgy. Banca-Banca. Large parts of the coastal plains are cultivated, mainly with coconuts and rice paddies, particularly in Narra and Iwahig, where irrigation is available. Extensive areas of disturbed grassland-forest mosaics persist, which are habitats for a surprisingly high number of Palawan endemics. One explanation for this phenomenon could be that the present vegetation resembles that of some periods in the Pleistocene. These areas are used as pastures, but also for the collection of a wide variety of forest products. Grass fires are a regular occurrence and partly the vegetation is adapted to these occurrences (*Antidesma* fire savanna). Extensive evergreen and semi-evergreen lowland forests exist at the foot of the Victoria Anepahan

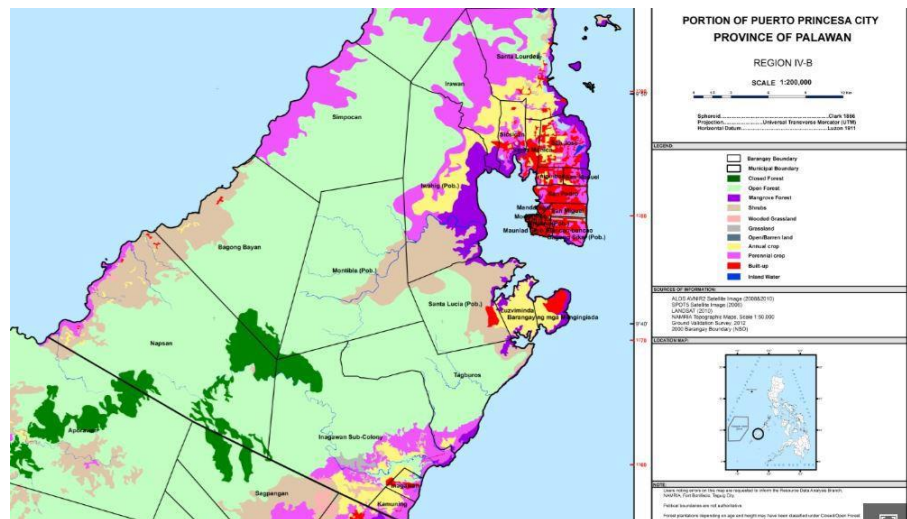


Figure 1. Land use of southern Puerto Princesa, including IPPF according to NAMRIA. Large areas were classified as open forest (bright green signature); this is not in line with observations on site, where large areas of closed forests were recorded particularly in portions of Iwahig, Tagburus (“Zigzag”) and Montible (Source: NAMRIA)

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Range, on fossil limestone reefs in Narra and Aborlan, south of the Bay of Puerto and in the Iwahig Penal Colony. Particularly the latter area is of outstanding conservation importance. All endemic lowland bird species are recorded from the area. Globally threatened species, aside from the Cockatoo, include Palawan Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron napoleonis*, Blue-headed Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platenae*, Palawan Hornbill *Anthracoseros marche*, Red-headed Flameback *Chrysocolaptes erythrocephalus*, Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*, Falcated Wren-babbler *Ptilocichla falcata*, and Palawan Flycatcher *Ficedula platenae*. Because of the abundance of brackish and freshwater wetlands Iwahig Penal Colony is an important wintering ground for waterbirds, including the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*.

Conservation Objectives

1. Maintain the species diversity and function of ecosystems and species within Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF).
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. Increased number of Philippine Cockatoo breeding pairs in Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm by at least 10% by 2024 (Baseline: average breeding pairs 2019 to 2021: 9.3).
2. Reduced threats in the area by 50% from 2022 to 2024.
3. Restored at least two hectares of cockatoo breeding and foraging habitats annually by 2024
4. Established a critical habitat for the Philippine cockatoo and other threatened wildlife species within the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm and support the protection of the proposed Montible watershed.

Methods

Deputized 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.

Patrols are coordinated with the concerned barangay, prison farms, protected area office wherever it applies.

II. PATROL TEAM AND EFFORT

The patrol team composed of KFI, PCSDS, DENR, IPPF personnel, and wildlife wardens conducted 16 patrols and monitoring at foraging areas within the city, breeding habitat, and the surroundings of the penal farm. The team covered **213.79Km in June**. Please refer to the list of team members on the last page.

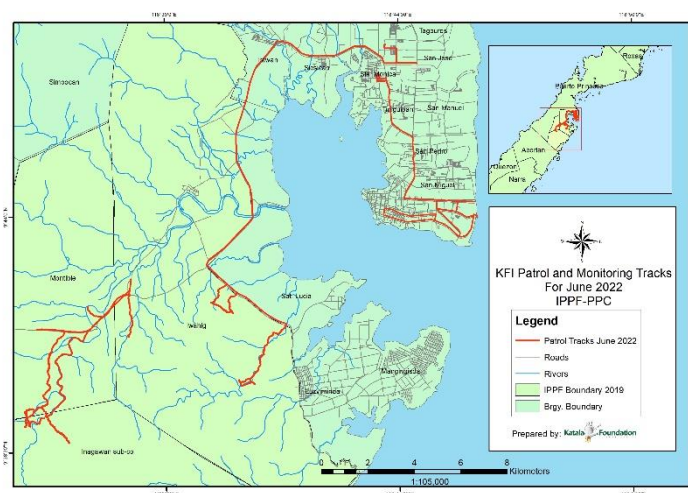


Figure 2. Patrol tracks for June 2022 ©KFI

III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

A. WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

- *Intensive monitoring in foraging and roosting areas continued.* Roosting cockatoos were monitored at two roost sites within the penal farm and the city area. The highest recorded count in the city was 48; while there are no roosting cockatoos in the Montible roost site, some were observed roosting in their natural breeding grounds in Luzviminda, Sta. Lucia, and Montible. During the daytime (5:05 am–6:05 am), cockatoos in the city were observed foraging in Pagatpat before dispersing in different parts of the city. In San Miguel, 1-4 cockatoos were flying towards Cabiguen St., heading towards Robinsons. Some concerned citizens also reported 4–13 individuals near the city coliseum going to BM beach; in Valencia St., 10–13 cockatoos were reported foraging on Malunggay pods; while in Manalo St., Barangay Milagrosa, 9–11 Cockatoos were observed feeding on African tulip trees. We noted that some figs like Balete were observed fruiting in the city. While Ipil-ipil and Malunggay are abundant, Pagatpat fruits are scarce. In Montible, cockatoos were recorded in Malabo Forest, Menor, and Tagatalaba forests. Some were crossing the Malinao River and Bacoco River to Iwahig central to forage.
- The composite team of KFI, DENR, and wildlife wardens conducted a ten-day nest and habitat monitoring in Montible, Inagawan, Sta. Lucia, and Luzviminda forests. Twelve nest trees and three potential nest trees were visited. All potential nest trees were in the Montible area. As of this month, six hatchlings of the Philippine cockatoo were recorded, four were banded, and biometric data and blood samples were also collected during the monitoring. One of the six hatchlings was rescued to save from potential poaching as signs were indicative in the area. As of June, of the recorded 12 eggs of the Philippine cockatoo half hatched. Other cavity nesters recorded for this year's breeding season are the Blue-naped parrot with seven hatchlings, two of which were possibly poached, one died due to scarcity of food causing abnormality in limbs. The Hill myna with three eggs failed to hatch, while a Dollarbird was also recorded, but the egg was believed to have been predated or dropped in the nest tree. Some individuals of cockatoos were observed sleeping in some nest trees. Feces and feathers were seen inside nest cavities in known and potential nest trees.
- *Observation of wildlife and other cavity nesters monitoring.* At least three Palawan Hornbills foraging on figs were seen in Montible. Blue-naped parrots were also present in all areas visited for the month. We also recorded a Blue-headed racket-tail inside the Montible sub-colony and in Tagatalaba River; at least four were also observed near one of the known nest trees in Sta. Lucia. Other avian species recorded in June include tracks of Palawan peacock pheasant (female), Hill myna, Red-headed Flameback, Great Slaty Woodpecker, White-bellied Sea eagle, juvenile Crested Serpent Eagle, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, Black-naped Oriole, Common Iora, Palawan Drongo, Oriental Dollarbird, Palawan tit, Rufous-tailed tailorbird, Palawan fairy blue-bird, White-vented Shama, Grey-capped Emerald dove, Hooded Pitta, Philippine Scrubfowl. Non-avian species include Palawan-Flying Squirrel, Palawan Tree Squirrel, Palawan Stink badger, Palawan bearded pig, Palawan porcupine (tracks), and Paradise tree snake.



Figure 3. Oriental Dollarbird in Montible.
@KFI



Figure 4. Four Philippine cockatoo hatchlings that were banded during the nest monitoring for the month (right) @KFI

B. THREAT OBSERVATIONS

In Luzviminda, encroachment was still prominent during our visit; at least two trees were cut down, and a charcoal pit was seen operating, but no individuals were seen in the area. Meanwhile, the construction of a house or tribal hall was seen near the Malinao River in Montible. It was suspected that the previously confiscated lumber near the area was used to make the house. We also saw some snares in Malabo, St. Lucia, and Luzviminda. The team disarmed and collected the snares where the tracks of wild pigs, porcupines, and peacocks were seen.

IV. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- *Katala Foundation partners with EDC-BINHI to conserve threatened Palawan flora.* On June 3, 2022, the Katala Foundation executives signed a memorandum of agreement with the Energy Development Corporation under the BINHI program, which aims to conserve and protect threatened Palawan trees. On June 11, together with BINHI representatives, KFI conducted fieldwork in Mt. Thumbpeak, where the team found the *Schefflera foxworthyi*, locally known as Panagang (Tagbanua). The tree's last documentation was in 1911 and was rediscovered after 111 years. Some priority species were in higher elevations, so the team further survey in the area. We also recorded another priority species, the Palawan Narig, which was also fruiting, but an unidentified insect infested most of the fruits.
- On June 8, KFI, DENR, IPPF, and other local government units celebrated Philippine environment month; in line with this, a nationwide tree planting activity was conducted within a graduated NGP site located in Barangay Montible. The team planted a total of 300 Narra seedlings to supplement the reforestation within the deforested area.
- *Construction of artificial nest boxes.* Last year, Palawan was devastated by typhoon Odette; almost half of the known trees in IPPF were destroyed. To supplement the scarcity of nest trees, KFI installed some artificial nest boxes in Montible and Iwahig. Construction of four cockatoos and two Palawan hornbill artificial nest boxes is ongoing and will be installed prior to next year's breeding season.
- *"Baragatan sa Palawan Festival 2022".* KFI's flagship species were prominently displayed at the festival's parade in the city. The KFI mascots to include the Philippine Cockatoo, Palawan Hornbill, Palawan Pangolin, and Palawan Forest Turtle, along with the debut of the newest addition to KFI's flagship species, the Palawan Porcupine joined the parade and entertained the crowd.

V. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS, AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- During the monitoring, we observed several illegally cut trees, especially in Luzviminda and Sta. Lucia area. Likewise, the extended encroachment in Malabo Forest should be addressed with new structures being put up near the Malinao River. We hope these area acted upon asap.
- Increased patrolling in the sites is necessary to avert further destruction of lowland forests.
- Rebuilding of our nursery in Montible is on going.
- Due to Typhoon Odette, only six nest trees of the Philippine cockatoos and six other nests for cavity nesters were active this year. We were lucky to find three new nest trees and three potential nest trees for the year; nevertheless, search for new nest trees will still be scheduled.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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To all those who, in one way or the other, had contributed to the achievement of our shared vision for the conservation of biodiversity in the IPPF, great thanks!

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Figure 5. Snapshots during nest monitoring, leg banding, blood sample collection, and tree planting activity (upper), charcoal pit, and snare that were recorded in Luzviminda (lower) ©MB.Ong, KFI



Figure 6. Snapshots during the rediscovery of *Schefflera foxworthyi* (top photos) and snapshots during Baragatan Festival. © MBOng, KFI