KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

October 2022 SUMMARY
Dumaran Island Critical Habitat
Dumaran, Palawan

32

Bilang ng nagawang patrolya

229.82

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng patrolya

85.04

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya

6,453

Bilang ng natanim

3

Bilang ng naikabit na ANB

0

Bilang ng ilegal na gawain na naobserba

28

Pinakamataas na bilang sa tulugan ng Katala

3

Pinakamataas na grupong Talusi na nakita

55

Nakitang namumunga at namumulaklak na puno

Katala Foundation INCORPORATED

ZGAP FbP SPS BEAUVAL NATURE LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN JE CARE CHESTER ZOO ACT FOR WILDLIFE

Anonymous Donor

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Biodiversity Management Bureau

PHILIPPINE COCKATOO CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

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Dumaran, Palawan

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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 leytensis* (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).

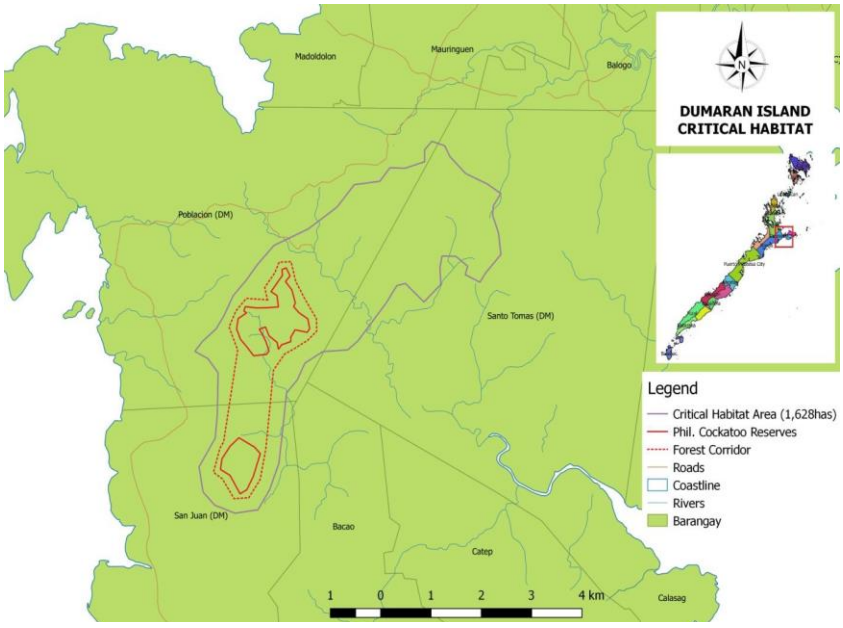

Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

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

The Dumaran 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 Dumaran 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-Dumaran wherever it applies.

II. PATROL TEAM AND EFFORT

KFI team regularly patrolled the forested area inside and outside DICH: **Michael Plazos, Nestor Arzaga, Orlando Balmonte, Felipe Condesa, Eddie Derecho, Angelu Paduga, and volunteers Domingo Sy, Andres Aurelio, Rodolfo Comedia and Miguel Nadayao Jr**. They have recorded fruiting trees, threats, and other wildlife observed. Suitable driftwoods to be used as artificial nest boxes (ANB) were also collected if available. Monthly patrols covered 229.82km distance from 32 patrols and 85.04 hours within the Omoi and Manangbaling Protected Areas, forested area within Bulalakaw, Camaya, Candez, Kasipulo, Bohol, Poblacion, and San Juan. No threats were observed during monitoring. Five driftwoods of Tabigue tree were collected by monitoring wardens.

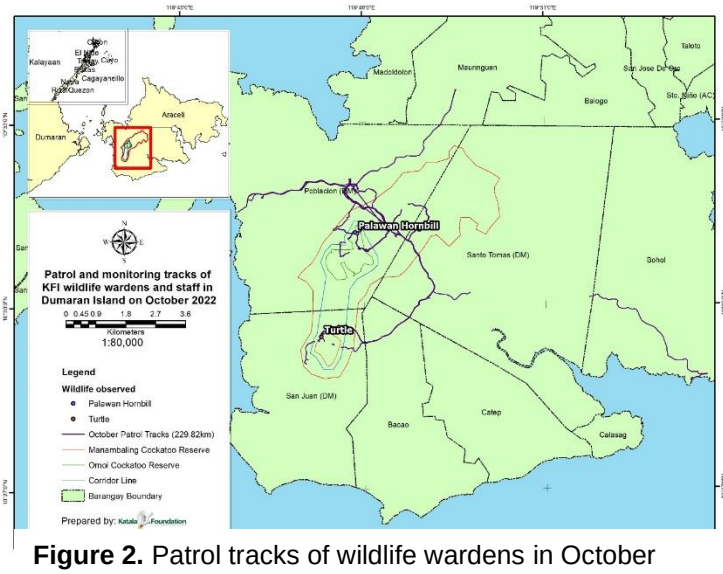

Figure 2. Patrol tracks of wildlife wardens in October

Regular monitoring at the roost was conducted for the month where 10-28 cockatoos were observed. There were mostly 13 in the roost every morning (9 times) and afternoon counts (10 times). Cloudy and fair weather was observed with ten days of rainfall.

A survey to locate other cockatoo roosting sites was conducted at Bgy. Bacao last 22-23 October which yielded seven cockatoos seen feeding on Malunggay fruiting tree nearby the Bgy. Hall of Bgy. Bacao around 2:10PM and heard voices of passing cockatoos within the barangay. Malunggay tree was the only fruiting tree observed within the area. There were nine cockatoos seen roosting on a coconut plantation on the 22th of October. According to residents and KFI volunteer, there were 6-15 cockatoos seen passing, making noise, perching and feeding on Malunggay fruiting trees almost everyday for this month.

Figure 3. Roosting cockatoos in Bgy. Bacao (left); and foraging cockatoo in the same barangay (right) @KFI

PATROL OBSERVATIONS

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.

ANB construction made out of plywood and driftwood was continuous. Two ANBs for hornbill were installed at Aranlegan and one ANB for Scops Owl was installed at Omoi. Two ANBs suited for the Philippine Cockatoo are ready to be installed should good weather come.

Figure 4. Installation of ANB to aid in the breeding of cavity nesters @KFI

Foraging

A single Kulayan tree was fruiting in Omoi and Manambaling plot respectively. While no fruiting trees were recorded in Candez nor in Lagan. The same tree was flowering in Omoi while the Kulayan tree and an Amuraon tree were flowering in Manambaling. Most of the plots in Lagan have flowering Pagatpat trees. Trees in these plots are in various stages of leaf growth and abscission.

Fifty-five food-providing trees were recorded during this month. These includes Agboy, Apitong Baboy, ,Amumusing Amuraon, Anagas, Anan, Antipulo, Apatot, Balonsaging, Balite, Banaba, Banga, Bangkal, Bangkudo, Barok, Basa, Beri, Binatalan, Binunga, Biton-Biton, Bugo, Bunog, Bunuang, Bunot-Bunot, Catmon, Dulo, Kalampinay, Kapok, Kirag-Kirag, Kulayan, Kuliat, Ilang-Ilang, Imamangal, Inagdong, Iniam, Ipil, Lanite, Lapnog, Luwas-Luwas, Malunggay Maranggo, Mulawin, Narra, Orabsik, Pagatpat, Panapuan, Saleng, Somalagen, Tagalilong, Tagpe, Talisay, and Tebey

Figure 5. Fruiting Ipil-ipil and Botabon observed during monitoring @KFI.

Palawan Hornbill Monitoring

There were two to six hornbills observed during monitoring on six areas in the island namely: Omoi, Candez, Kasipulo, Manangbaling, Bacao, and Aranlegan. They were observed perching, making noise on Kulayan, Acacia, Gmelina, and Cashew trees/ Cashew plantation, and looking for food on fruiting Mango tree.

Other wildlife species

Thirty-five species were observed in the Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) stations in DICH while 38 species were recorded at the reforestation site. Twenty-one species were recorded in both areas and these are: Ashy Drongo, Barred Button-quail, Blue-headed Racket-tail, Blue-naped Parrot, Common Iora, Dollar Bird, Grey-cheeked Bulbul, Hill Mynah, Hooded Pitta, Lovely Sunbird, Monitor Lizard, Olive-winged Bulbul, Palawan Hornbill, Red Junglefowl, Spot-throated Woodpecker, Spotted Dove, Spangled Drongo, Squirrel, White-collared Kingfisher, and Zebra Dove.

Ground camera traps recorded several wildlife including the Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel, Philippine Megapode, Long-tailed Macaque, Red Junglefowl, Civet Cat, Palawan Crow, Rail, Skink, and Rat.

Figure 6. Wildlife recorded in ground camera traps: Red Junglefowl (top-left); Philippine Megapode (top-right); Palawan Crow (bottom-left); and Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel (bottom-right) @KFI

III. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

There are currently 10,838 wildlings in the main nursery after, 560 were collected by wildlife wardens, no wildlings died nor released for planting. Most of the wildlings are Palomaria, Nato, and Lamoto. 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 only 52 wildlings after 1206 were released for planting. There are no wildlings in the growth chamber. Regular activities in the nursery e.g., potting, watering, weeding and cleaning, were continuous.

Figure 7. Checking of status of wildlings (left); and healthy wildlings in the nursery (right) @KFI

A total of 6,453 wildlings from eleven species were planted for this month. The most commonly planted wildlings were Palomaria (1442), Magabo (1327), and Lamoto (1129). Highest rainfall record was recorded in Candez monitoring station i.e., 505mm followed by Omoi monitoring station i.e., 449mm. Lagan experienced the least rainfall, with only 259mm rainfall.

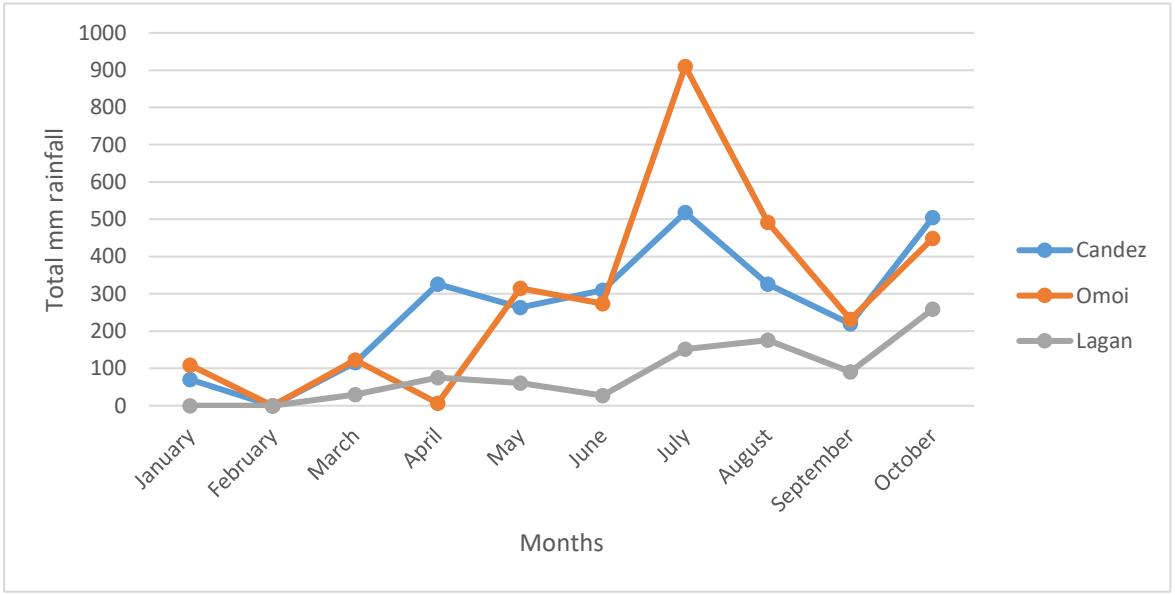

Figure 8. Rainfall data of Dumaran Island (top); and planting of wildlings inside the DICH during the rainy season (bottom) @KFI

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 was finished likewise.

Several local meetings were also attended including Municipal Development Council (24 Oct) regarding revision of supplemental Annual Investment Program No. 3- 2022 and Solid Waste Management (25 Oct) in which there will be a search for the BLGU with the best practices in solid waste management.

Figure 9. The completed KEEC (top); and finished houses with housing materials from KFI and partners (bottom) @KFI

IV. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

With the change in the local administration in Dumaran, we are hoping to continue the fruitful endeavor on the island in 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

Thank you very much to the LGU-Dumaran through the leadership of the newly-elected Mayor Richard R. Herrera, Vice Mayor Caabay and their able staff, MENRO Caabay, all department heads, barangay officials, and everyone in the LGU for helping us always with the utmost attention.

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

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