

KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

September 2022 SUMMARY Dumaran Island Critical Habitat Dumaran, Palawan



26

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



250.63

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng
patrolya



60.54

Kabuuang oras ng
patrolya



5,614

Bilang ng natanim



5

Bilang ng nagawang ANB



0

Bilang ng ilegal na
gawain na naobserba



25

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



3

Pinakamataas na
grupong Talusi na nakita



45

Nakitang namumunga at
namumulaklak na puno





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

September 2022

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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).

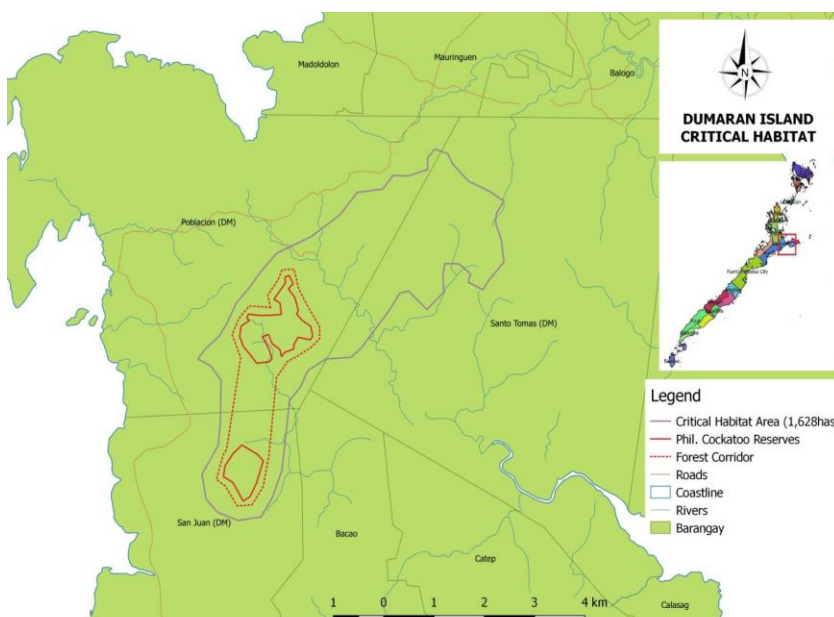


Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

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

KFI team regular patrols were conducted in the forested area inside and outside DICH with the following team members: **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.

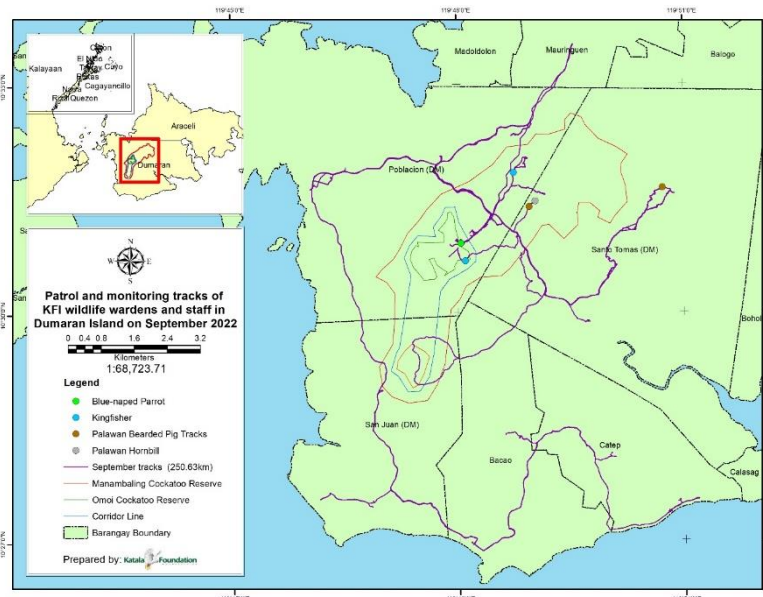


Figure 2. Patrol tracks and wildlife observed during monitoring for the month of September @KFI

Suitable driftwoods to be used as artificial nest boxes (ANB) were also collected if available. Nest monitoring and checking were also conducted. Monthly patrols covered 250.63km distance from a total of 26 patrols and 60.54 hours within the Omoi and Manambaling Protected Areas, forested area within Bulalakaw, Camaya, Candez, Kasipulo, Bacao, Catep, and San Juan. On Sept 19, KFI staff and wardens verified a report from MENRO of a chainsaw operation at Sitio Kasipulo to Baleteng Bilog. They conducted patrolling in the area but no cut tree nor chainsaw marks were observed.

Regular monitoring in the roost was conducted for the month. Thirteen to 25 cockatoos were observed at the site. The maximum number of cockatoos were usually observed in the roost every morning (16 times) and afternoon (17 times). Cloudy and fair weather was observed with three days of rainfall.

Synchronized counting of cockatoos were also conducted this 20th of September at Bgy. San Juan Proper, So. Lagan, So. Manangbaling, Omoi, Kasipulo, Salvacion, Poblacion, Aranlegan, and Bgy. Bacao. Two cockatoos were seen perched near ANB 17 in Manambaling, four cockatoos were recorded in Omoi flying from Candez to Bulalakaw Area. In Bacao, ten cockatoos were observed feeding on Malunggay tress while 18 cockatoos from the roosting site in Lagan flew to the northeast direction.



Figure 3. Roosting site of the Philippine Cockatoo in Dumaran Island (left); roosting cockatoos perched on a coconut tree (right) @KFI

PATROL OBSERVATIONS

Supplementation of natural population

Released birds were seldom observed during monitoring and were assumed to assimilate completely with the wild population. Five ANBs made from a combination of plywood and driftwood were constructed this month; finishing will be done and will be installed once fully furnished.



Figure 4. A visiting cockatoo was captured by camera trap in one of the previously installed ANB @KFI



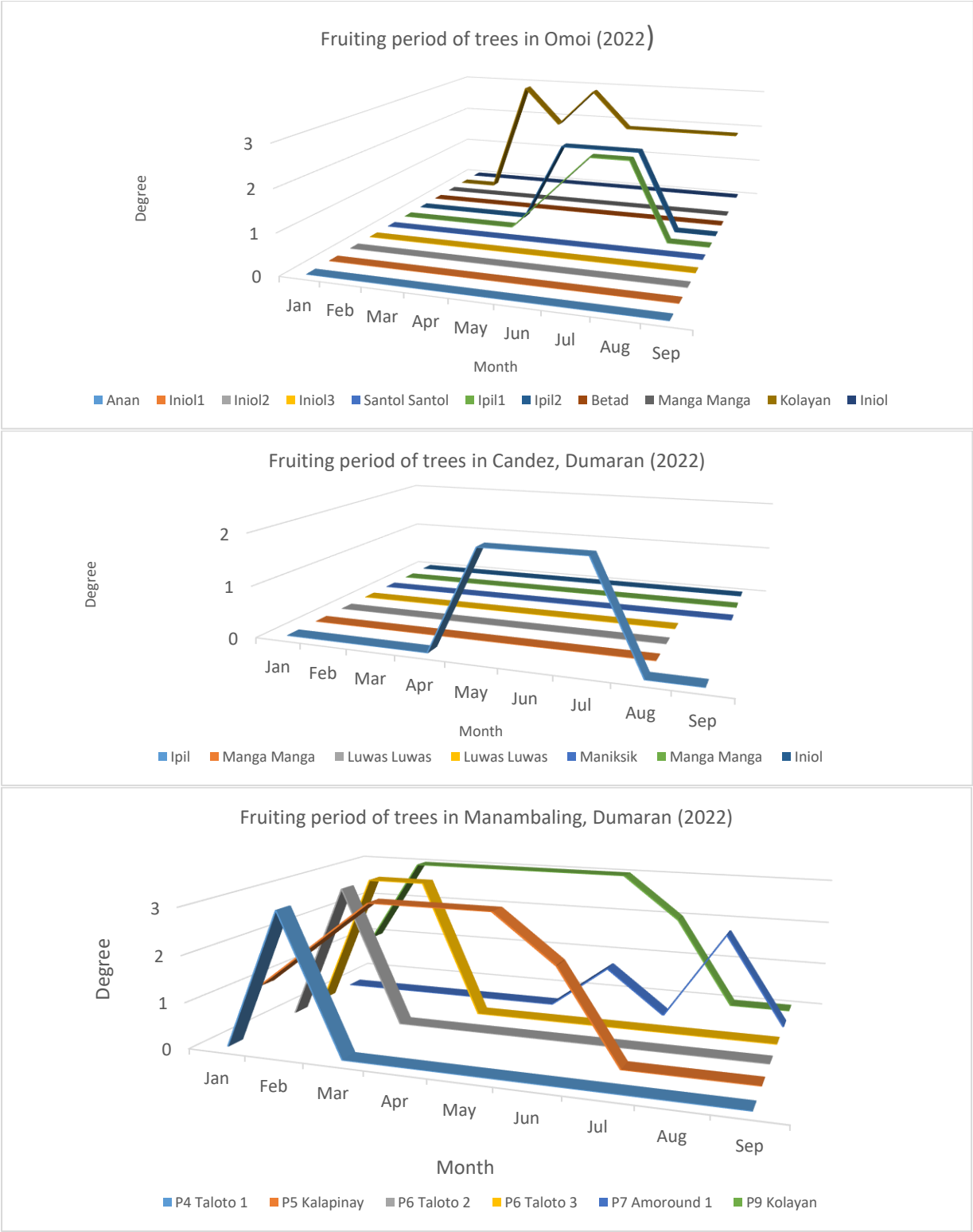
Figure 5. ANB construction for the cockatoos for the next breeding seasons @KFI

Foraging

There were four to 15 cockatoos seen feeding on Pagatpat and Malunggay trees at Bgy. Bacao around 9:00 to 11:00AM.

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

There were no fruiting activity this month similar to August in Omoi, Candez, and Manambaling except for a single Kulayan Tree in Omoi. In Lagan, all Pagatpat trees are fruiting except for a single tree.



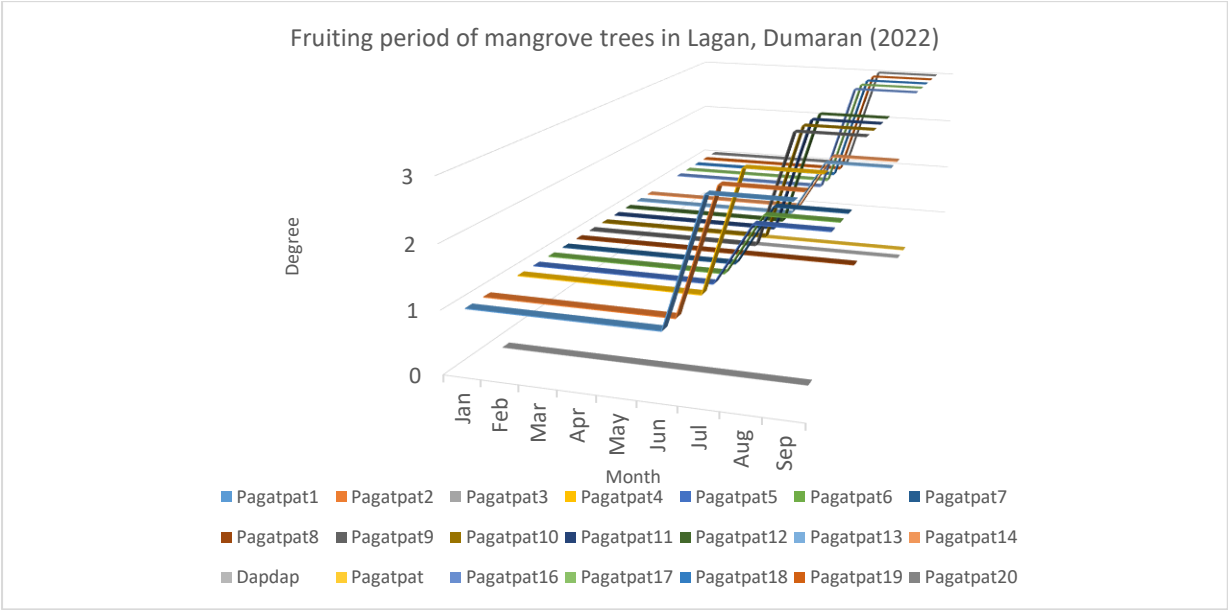
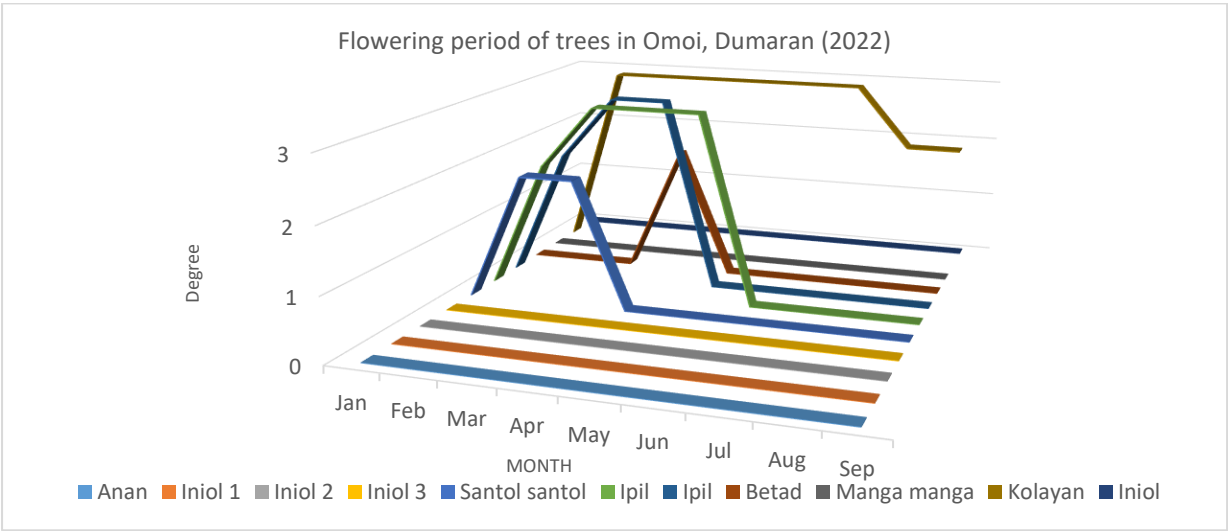


Figure 6. Fruiting activity in phenology plots of Dumaran Island @KFI

In terms of flowering, only a single Kulayan tree is flowering in Omoi, a single Amuraon tree in Manambaling, and no flowering trees in Candez. There is minimal flowering activity in all plots of Lagan. There is leaf growth/cessation in all plots except in Lagan.



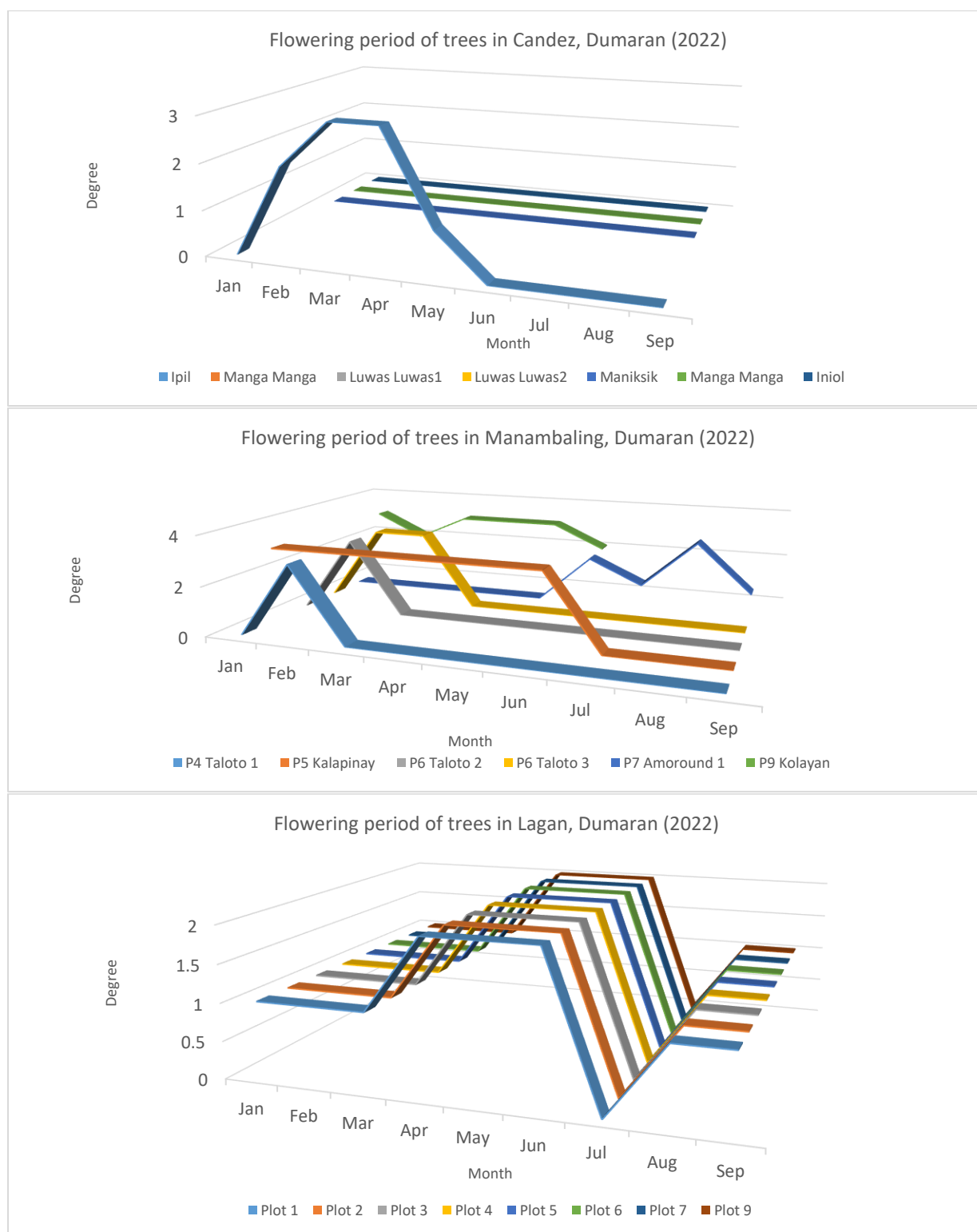


Figure 7. Flowering activity in phenology plots in Dumarán Island @KFI

Palawan Hornbill monitoring

There were one to three hornbills observed during monitoring on seven areas in the island namely: Omoi, Candez, Kasipulo, Manangbaling, Baing, Luyang, Bacao, and Catep. They were observed perching and making noise on Kulayan, Saleng, Balite, Bangkal, Narra, Alalod,

Anagas and Cashew trees, passing on coconut plantation, and feeding on Imamangal fruiting tree. During the synchronized counting of cockatoos, two hornbills were observed in Aranlegan going to Poblacion while two hornbills were observed perched on a Balite Tree in Omoi.



Figure 8. Perched Palawan Hornbills observed during monitoring (top); a visiting hornbill in one of the known nest trees (bottom) ©KFI

Other wildlife species

Forty-four species were observed in the Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) stations in DICH while 38 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 9. Birds recorded during monitoring: Spot-throated Woodpecker (top-left); Blue-naped Parrot (top-right); Chestnut Malkoha (bottom-left); and Rufous-crowned Bee-eater (bottom-right) ©KFI

III. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

There are 10,278 seedlings in the main nursery after 310 were collected while 825 and 109 seedlings were released for planting and died respectively. Most of the seedlings in the main nursery are Palomaria, Nato and Lamoto. The same number of seedlings were recorded in Candez satellite nursery (1289); no seedlings died nor were released in the said nursery. In Manambaling satellite nursery there are 1,258 seedlings after 94 seedlings were collected; majority of seedlings in the latter nursery are Palomaria. There are no seedlings in the growth chamber. Regular activities in the nursery e.g., potting, watering, and cleaning, were continuous.



Figure 10. Regular activities conducted in the nursery for the month of September ©KFI

Highest rainfall record was recorded in Omoi monitoring station i.e., 232mm followed by Candez monitoring station i.e., 220mm. Lagan experienced the least rainfall, with only 91mm rainfall.

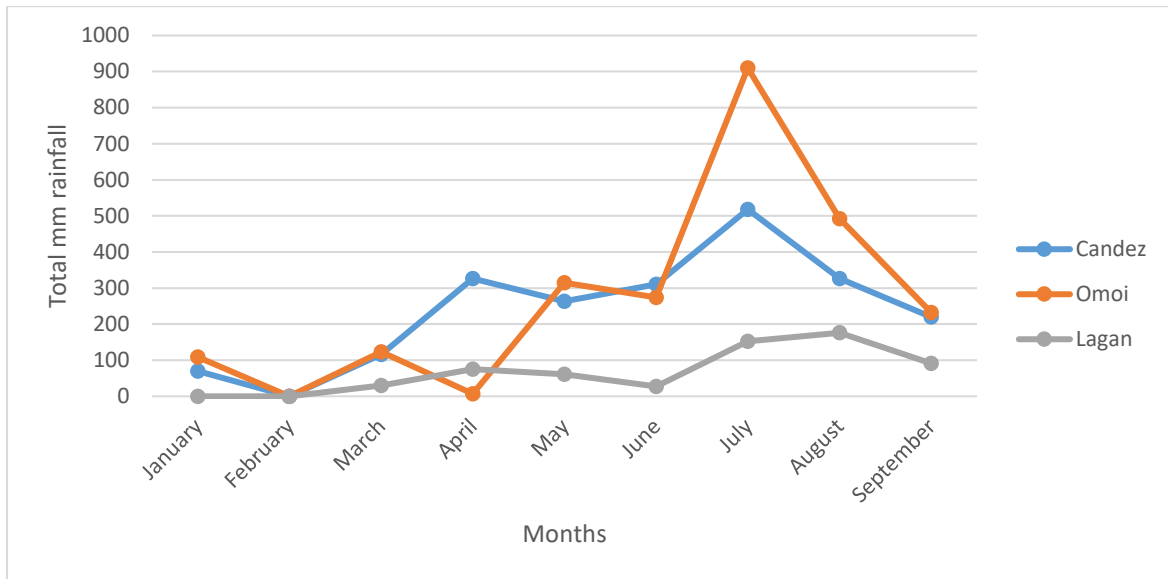


Figure 11. Rainfall data of Dumaran Island from January to September 2022 ©KFI

A total of 5,614 wildlings were planted for the month of September in Omoi reforestation area. There were 13 species of native trees planted for these months: Nato, Palomaria, Baslayan, Ipil, Narra, Domalta, Lamoto, Iniol, Kulayan, Ipil, Somalagen, Botabon, and Bolabog. Most of the trees planted were Nato (1617) and Palomaria (1100). The wardens also assisted and participated in the LGU's tree planting activity as part of the Civil Service Week Celebration at Aranlegan.



Figure 12. Tree planting activity with the LGU (top and bottom-left); and wildlings donated for the activity ©KFI

KFI participated in the regular ECAN board meeting last September 2, 2022. We have presented our position regarding the ECAN zonation of DICH and other areas of concern in the island i.e., foraging areas of wildlife in South Dumarán and classifying the corridor between the two cockatoo reserve as restricted-use area. We were also called by the Sanggunian Bayan to present said position paper during their regular hearing last September 12, 2022. We hope that the LGU and other concerned agencies will bring their best foot forward in ensuring the protection of wildlife and their habitats in Dumarán.



Figure 13. ECAN board meeting and SB hearing for the updating of the terrestrial ECAN map of Dumarán ©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.

Requirements for accreditation were prepared pursuant to DILG Memorandum Circular 2022-083. This accreditation allows then our membership to local bodies e.g. Municipal Development Council, etc.

Construction of the KEEC is ongoing. The construction of the KEEC is almost complete; electrical wiring and the staircase will be installed later this month. We are very grateful to LGU-Dumarán for its financial assistance for the renovation of the KEEC in the same manner we are indebted to the anonymous donor who mainly granted funds for this activity. Lastly our thanks too for individuals and members of ZGAP who contributed as well for the completion of the KEEC.



Figure 14. KEEC construction nearing its completion and minor finishing will be conducted next month ©KFI

IV. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Government should prioritise the protection and maintaining the integrity of remnant forests and critical habitats in Dumaran especially that the area has fragmented and small forest patches remaining. The zonations must also ensure that the plight and right of wildlife are heard. 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. Reports of illegal activities should always be verified.

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. Nest characteristics assessment will also be conducted to compare nests and nest trees over time.

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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