KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

November 2022 SUMMARY
Dumaran Island Critical Habitat
Dumaran, Palawan

35

Bilang ng nagawang patrolya

331.18

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng patrolya

68.35

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya

6115

Bilang ng natanim

3

Bilang ng naikabit na ANB

0

Bilang ng ilegal na gawain na naobserba

26

Pinakamataas na bilang sa tulugan ng Katala

4

Pinakamataas na grupong Talusi na nakita

42

Nakitang namumunga at namumulaklak na puno

Katala Foundation INCORPORATED

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

Anonymous Donor

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Biodiversity Management Bureau

PHILIPPINE COCKATOO CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

09675176935 048-434-7693 kficacatua2016@gmail.com

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

November 2022

Prepared by:

Michael F. Plazos, Lemuel Pabico, Peter Widmann and Indira D. L. Widmann

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).

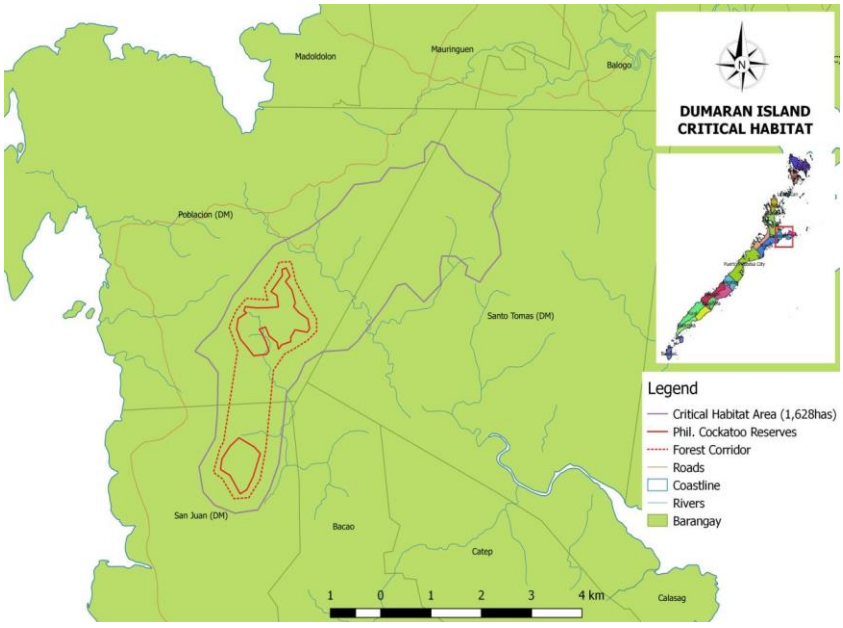

Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

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 331.18km distance from 35 patrols and 68.35 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. Four driftwoods of Tabigue tree were collected by monitoring wardens. Regular monitoring at the roost was conducted for the month where 13-26 cockatoos were observed. There were mostly 16 cockatoos in the roost either morning or afternoon (ten

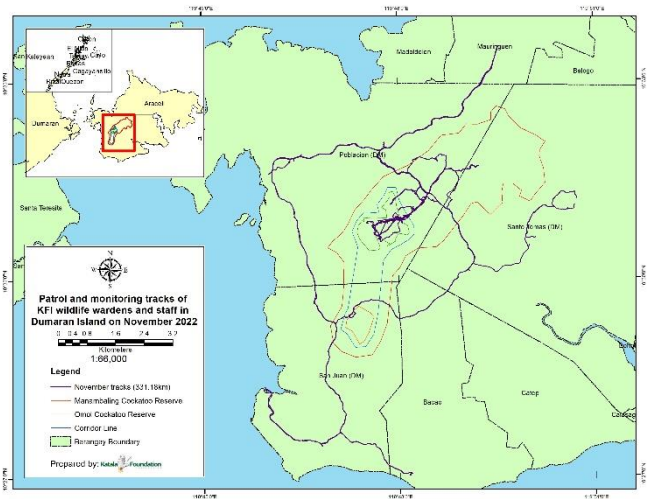

Figure 2. Patrol tracks of wildlife wardens in November

times). Cloudy and fair weather were usually observed in the roost although rain falls in four days of the month.
We went back to Bgy. Bacao to monitor roosting cockatos in the area last November 14 but no cockatoos were observed. We talked to nearby citizens and coconut plantation owner but they too have not observed any cockatoos this month. On the other hand, reports of cockatoo sightings were received from Bgy. Calasag with six to eight counts of Cockatoos perching on Coconut tree and feeding on Malunggay trees. The recipients of housing materials were tapped to monitor and report cockatoo sightings in their area.

Figure 3. Monitoring in Bgy. Bacao of roosting cockatoos; no cockatoos were recorded @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.
Installation of ANB were continuous this month; an ANB made for Palawan Scops Owl was installed in a Maniksik tree near the camp last November 5, two ANBs for the cockatoo were also installed last November 12 and 22 in a Bolabog and Kamanglit tree respectively. An additional three ANBs were constructed and finished last November 26; they were hauled and delivered in Omoi for future installation.

Figure 4. Hauling and installation of ANBs @KFI

Foraging

Few trees were fruiting and flowering in phenology plots of the island. In Omoi the only flowering tree was Kulayan, while the only fruiting trees are Santol-santol and the same Kulayan tree. No fruiting nor flowering tree was recorded in Candez. In Manambaling, only one Kulayan tree was fruiting while the flowering trees were Kulayan, Kalampinay, and four Amuraon. No fruiting nor flowering Pagatpat trees were recorded in Lagan phenology plots. Trees in all of the plots were in various stages of leaf growth and leaf fall.

Figure 5. Fruiting Luya-luya foraged by bulbuls and sunbird @KFI

Forty-two food-providing trees were recorded during this month. These includes Agboy, Apitong- baboy, Amumusing, Amuraon, Anan, Antipulo, Apatot, Balite, Banaba, Banga, Bangkal, Bangkudo, Bugo, Bunog, Bunuang, Bunot-Bunot, Botabon, Catmon, Dulo, Kalampinay, Kapok, Kirag-Kirag, Kulayan, Kuliat, Ilang-Ilang, Imamangal, Inagdong, Ipil, Ipil-ipil, Lago, Lanite, Lapnog, Luwas-Luwas, Maranggo, Mulawin, Orabsik, Panapuan, Saleng, Tagalilong, Tagpe, Talisay, and Tebey.

Palawan Hornbill Monitoring

There were two to four hornbills observed during monitoring on seven areas in the island namely: Omoi, Candez, Kasipulo, Manangbaling, Bacao, Luyang and Aranlegan. They were observed perching and making noise on Kulayan, Acacia, Balite Gemilina, Mango, Cashew, Taluto and Lago tree and heard calling from forested area.

Other wildlife species

Forty 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.

Ground camera traps recorded several wildlife including the Long-tailed Macaque, Palawan Bearded Pig, Palawan Crow, Palawan Water Monitor, Crested Goshawk, Philippine Megapode, Bittern, Small-clawed Otter, and Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel.

Figure 6. Long-tailed Macaque (top) and Palawan Bearded Pig (below) caught by ground camera traps @KFI

III. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

There are currently 6821 wildlings in the main nursery. This was after 47 wildlings were collected, 211 died, and 3853 seedlings released for planting. These are Lamoto, Kulayan, Palomaria, and Nato. No changes in wildlings inventoried in Candez and Manambaling satellite nursery i.e., 1289 and 52 wildlings respectively. There were 650 wildlings collected for the recovery area; most of them are Lamoto (350), Baslayan (120), and Magabo (100). 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 6115 wildlings was planted this month. They consisted of eleven species in which Palomaria (2016), Nato (1230), Iniol (690), and Lamoto (616) have the highest number of representative individuals. Highest rainfall record was recorded in Omoi monitoring station i.e., 308mm followed by Candez monitoring station i.e., 257mm. Lagan experienced the least rainfall, with only 198mm rainfall.

Figure 8. Planting of wildlings in the reforestation area in Dumaran Island @KFI

We attended the Environment Committee meeting last November 7 with Dumaran SB, MENRO, MAO, and PCSDS. PCSDS presented the current status of the updating of ECAN terrestrial and coastal map of Dumaran. We pursued for the protection of the DICH by upgrading the corridor between the two cockatoo reserves. Future meetings and visitations will be conducted. We have also submitted documents requested by MENRO as part of the Dumaran ECAN board evaluation for this year. We also attended the school governance council at the same day in which KFI is one of the stakeholders. We attended the MDRRMC training about basic incidence command system last November 15-18; they have organized a team that will serve as volunteer rescue during calamities.

Figure 9. Submission of documents to MENRO (top-left); SB environmental committee meeting (top-right); MDRRMC workshop for basic incidence command system (bottom) @KFI

IV. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

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. Hence, we are grateful to the LGU Dumaran for their unrelenting support for the warden scheme in the area.

We strive to continue the fruitful endeavor on the island in partnership with the local government units and the community. 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.

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.

Great thanks also to the PCSDS and DENR-ROXAS for their support. We are grateful to the whole KFI family and supporters 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 (2016). 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.