

KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

December 2021 SUMMARY Dumaran Island Critical Habitat Dumaran, Palawan



15

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



156.33

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng
patrolya



35.86

Kabuuang oras ng
patrolya



2800

Bilang ng natanim



0

Bilang ng nai-report sa mga
awtoridad



0

Bilang ng ilegal na
gawain na naobserba



30

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



5

Pinakamataas na
grupong Talusi na nakita



36

Nakitang namumunga at
namumulaklak na puno



Natumbang pugad pagkatapos ng
bagyong Odette:

Katala— 1 Balalatok— 3

Pikoy— 3 Salaksak— 1

Kilik— 5 Talusi— 1



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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 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 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 population 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).

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

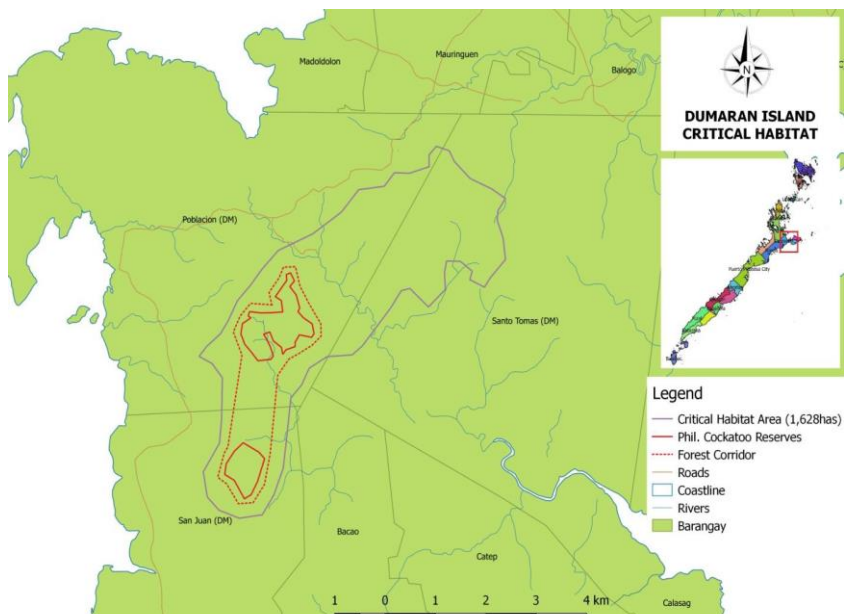


Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

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. To stabilize cockatoo population on Dumaran Island, Dumar from 2018-2021.
2. Increase viable population of endangered and endemic target cavity-nests e.g., Palawan Hornbill, Blue-naped Parrot, Blue-headed Racquet-Tail etc. in Dumar from 2018-2021.
3. Reduce threats in the area by 50% from 2018-2021.

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 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 bio-indicators (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, LGU and Bantay-Dumaran wherever it applies.

II. PATROL TEAM AND EFFORT

Monthly patrol consisted of recording fruiting wild trees for cockatoos and other wildlife as well as threat monitoring inside and outside the Critical Habitat. Nest monitoring was also conducted prior to the breeding season. The wardens covered about 156.33km of patrolling within the Omoi and Manangbaling Protected Area, forested area within Bulalakaw, Candez, Kasipulo and Bgy. San Juan. There are 13-30 cockatoos observed at the roost site during the month of December. Most of the time, 15 cockatoos were observed (nine days observed). Fair weather was observed in the roost at the start of the month, but typhoon Odette came and struck the island on the 17th. After this, strong winds were observed until the end of the month. The number observed in the roost were not affected by the typhoon as the highest number was recorded after it.

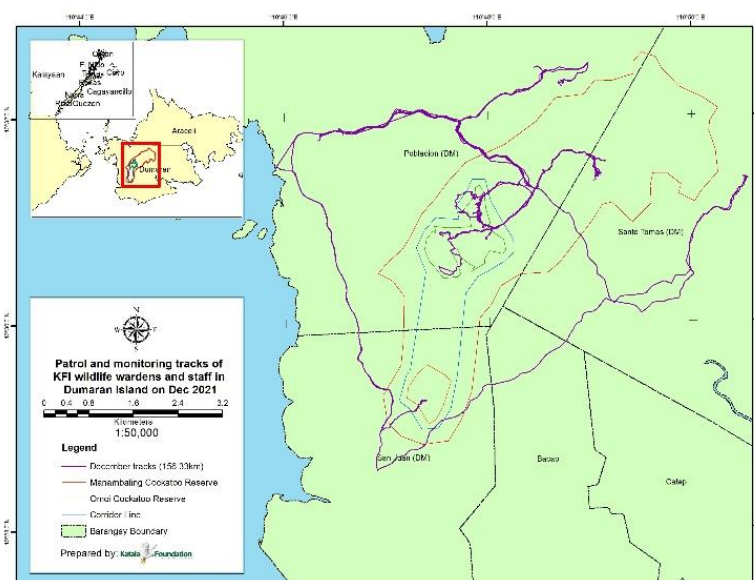


Figure 2. Patrol tracks of December

PATROL OBSERVATIONS

We visited known nest trees before as part of the pre-breeding season activity and after the devastating typhoon to record the status and damage of each nest. After monitoring of known nest trees after the typhoon, initial assessment revealed that there were six broken branches where nests were (two Philippine Cockatoo, three Blue-naped Parrot, and one Red-headed Woodpecker nest tree), 14 felled nest tree (one Philippine Cockatoo, three Blue-naped Parrot, five Blue-headed Racquet-tail, three Red-headed Woodpecker, one White-collared Kingfisher, and one Palawan Hornbills nest tree), and three damaged nest trees (two Palawan Hornbill and one Blue-naped Parrot nest tree). There were also seven felled artificial nest boxes (ANB) (two occupied by Hill Mynah and three occupied by Palawan Hornbill) and four ANB for hornbill (one occupied by Palawan Scops-owl) that did not fell but were damaged during the onslaught of the typhoon. More assessments have to be done in the next month.



Figure 3. State of Omoi (bottom-left) and Manambaling (bottom-right) forests after the typhoon Odette.

Supplementation of natural population

Released birds in the 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, Manangbaling and Bgy. San Juan. Birds that reached households and kaingin areas were shoed away by residents due to their knowledge that taming cockatoos will be detrimental to the population. Four ANBs were installed in Bulalakaw, Casipulo, Manambaling, and Camaya area respectively.



Figure 4. Installation of ANB in Casipulo (left) and Manambaling (right) area.

Foraging

There were no flowering nor fruiting trees inside the phenology plots of Omoi, Candez, and Manambaling; only Pagatpat trees in Lagan were fruiting and flowering. There was also no leaf growth observed as well as abscission, save for the cut branches brought by typhoon Odette. Two trees were felled due to the typhoon while all have cut branches. Moreover, two trees outside the plots were also felled.

There were 34 woody trees, one palm, and one shrub recorded to be fruiting during the month. Trees whose fruits are eaten by wildlife included Anan, Apatot, Balite, Bangkudo, Barok, Batbat, Binatalan, Bunuang, Bunog, Bunot-Bunot, Dangkalan, Domalta, Kalampinay, Kandis, Kanomay, Ipil, Luwas-luwas, Olandeg, Pagatpat, Panapuan, Saleng, Tagalilong, Tagpe, and Tebey. Those whose flowers are consumed included Amuraon, Binunga, Casay, Iniol, and Taluto. Both of the flowers and fruits of Catmon, Duguan, Kulayan, and Magabo are eaten by wildlife. The recorded palm and shrub are Batbat and Berrie respectively.



Figure 5. Fruits of Bonuang (left) and Batbat (right) trees eaten by cockatoos and other wildlife.

Palawan Hornbill Monitoring

Groups of up to five hornbills were observed in the island this month, specifically in Candez, Kasipulo, Manangbaling, Poblacion, Sto. Tomas, and Omoi, in which the latter has the highest number of observations i.e., four observations. They were seen making noise and foraging in Kulyan, Balite, Bangkal, Narra, Casay, and Gmelina trees. Continued monitoring as to how status of hornbills after Typhoon Odette happened will be pursued.



Figure 6. Palawan hornbill perched alone during monitoring

Other wildlife species

Thirty-five wildlife were observed in the reforestation site in Omoi, Bgy. Sto. Tomas which included Blue-naped Parrot, Barred Buttonquail, Black-naped Monarch, Blue-headed Racquet-tail, Dollar Bird, Hill Mynah, Olive-winged Bulbul, Palawan Hornbill, Philippine Cockatoo, Red Junglefowl among others. A one-day monitoring in established biodiversity monitoring system (BMS) stations recorded forty species which included the Chestnut Malkoha, Reddish Cuckoo-dove, Brown Shrike, Great Slaty Woodpecker, monitor lizards, monkeys, and squirrels among others.



Figure 7. An Asian Box Turtle recorded in patrol

III.OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

There are 7902 wildlings in the main nursery with Nato (2850) and Palomaria (2400) having the most number. Out of this, 297 were collected wildlings while 45 died and was removed from the total collection. In Candez satellite nursery, a total of 1392 wildlings remained from the previous total of 1419 wildlings after 27 died, most of which are Nato (16). On the other hand, there are 1242 wildlings in Manangbaling satellite nursery after 380 Palomaria wildlings died; nonetheless the latter have the highest number of wildlings in the said nursery with 960 individuals. There are no wildlings in the growth chamber. There were no rainfall data this month because of the broken rain gauge.



Figure 8. Wardens taking care of the main (left) and satellite (right) nursery after the typhoon.

A total of 2800 wildlings were planted in the reforestation site in Omoi this month. Fifty-eight of these came from the main nursery while the rest are from direct boling. Planting was conducted before the typhoon and was halted because of it. Assessment of planted trees shall be done in the next months as well as status of seedlings kept in the nursery after the strong typhoon.



Figure 9. Planting of trees before the typhoon

The Katala Environmental Education Center (KEEC) was totally damaged by the typhoon. Most of the wardens' and staff's houses were also damaged by it; the wardens and staff conducted Bayanihan for the repair of each house especially that of SWEO Maximo Pineda's house. The Katala management through its donors and supporters extended their help to affected wardens, local church and municipal hall immediately with food packages including rice, canned goods, noodles and building materials (nails and GI sheets for roofing).



Figure 10. Bayanihan movement of wardens and staff immediately after the typhoon

IV.ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Kaingin (Slash and burn) activities were observed this season outside the protected area and forested area.

After the typhoon, forests are dry as canopies are broken and so much combustible materials is available due to broken branches and leaves and therefore posing high threat on FIRE. This has to be addressed by the LGU and patrol within and near PAs must be intensively pursued. Persistent IEC campaigns must be pursued, and livelihood options must be offered by the government especially by the Department of Agriculture or other agencies.

The effects of typhoon Odette in the next breeding season will be monitored and assessed.

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