KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

May 2022 SUMMARY
Dumaran Island Critical Habitat
Dumaran, Palawan

17

Bilang ng nagawang patrolya

156.82

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng patrolya

24.64

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya

2949

Bilang ng natanim

28

Bilang ng nabisitang pugad at ANB ng mga cavity nesters

0

Bilang ng ilegal na gawain na naobserba

18

Pinakamataas na bilang sa tulugan ng Katala

4

Pinakamataas na grupong Talusi na nakita

31

Nakitang namumunga at namumulaklak na puno

Katala Foundation INCORPORATED

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

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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).

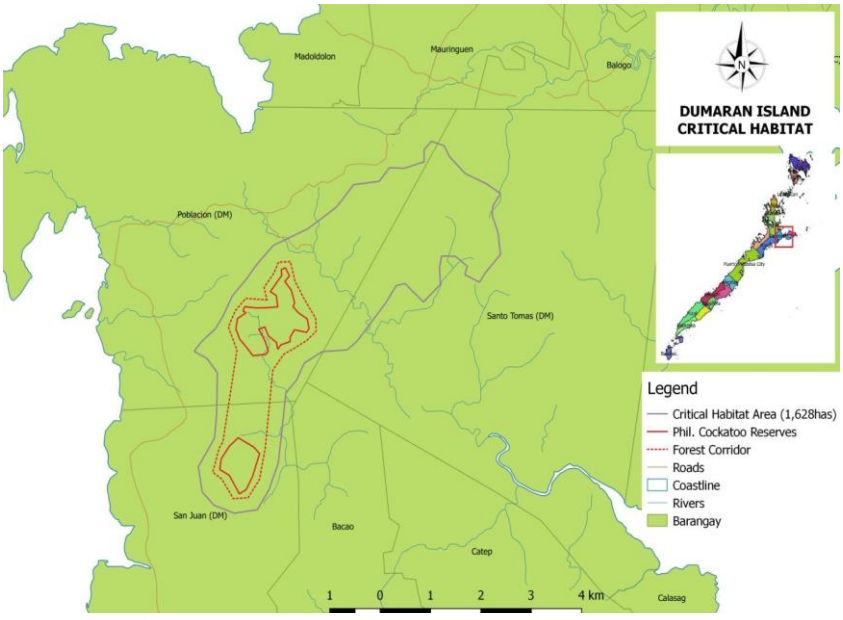

Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

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

Regular monitoring of forested areas inside and outside the DICH were conducted by KFI staff and wardens: Michael Plazos, Nestor Arzaga, Orlando Balmonte, Felipe Condesa, Eddie Derecho, Angelu Paduga, Maximo Pineda and volunteers Domingo Sy and Andres Aurelio.

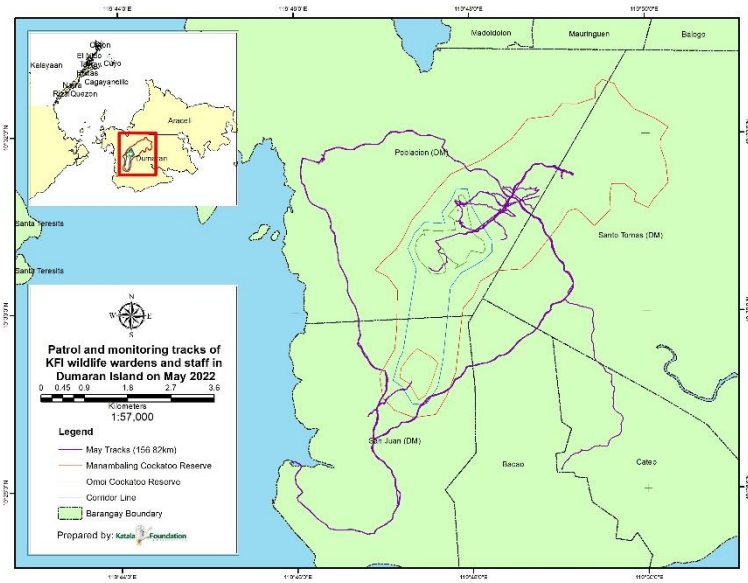

Figure 2. Patrol tracks for the month of May.@KFI

Possible threats, fruiting trees, and wildlife were recorded. Moreover, suitable driftwoods that can be used as artificial nest boxes (ANB) were collected. Regular visitation of known nest trees, newly discovered nests, and ANBs was continuous for the month. This month, 20 nest trees and eight ANBs of several cavity nesters were visited.

Monthly patrols covered 156.82 km and 24.64 hours from 17 patrols within the Omoi and Manambaling Protected Area, forested area within Bulalakaw, Camaya, Candez, Catep, Kasipulo and Bgy. San Juan. No threats were observed during monitoring.
Regular monitoring in the roost was conducted for the month. Eleven to 14 cockatoos were observed at the site; this is, so far, the lowest count of roosting cockatoos for the year, which may indicate the temporary nesting in the forest of most cockatoo to breed or the continuous search for food after the devastation of Typhoon Odette (Rai). There were mostly 14 cockatoos observed in the roost every morning (14 times) and afternoon counts (12 times). Fine weather was observed most of the time, but there were occasional rainfalls (five times) and cloudy weather (eight times).

PATROL OBSERVATIONS

Philippine Cockatoo Breeding season assessment and monitoring

Four cockatoo nests were climbed for this month's monitoring. No eggs recorded yet for all of monitored cockatoo nests, however, signs of occupation can be observed within these nests. The shortage of food brought by the devastating typhoon followed by very dry months at the start of the year have greatly affected this year's breeding season for the Katala and other cavity nesters.

Figure 3. Cockatoos visiting a known nest captured by an installed camera trap.@KFI

Foraging

There are lesser fruiting and flowering trees in Omoi, Candez, and Manambaling plots compared to Lagan phenology plots. Flowering/fruiting trees in the former three sites were Ipil, Kulayan, and, Kalampinay. Most of the Pagatpat trees in Lagan were fruiting and flowering. Moderate to excessive leaf shedding was also recorded in the three foremost plots but is lesser to none in Lagan phenology plot.
There were 31 food-providing trees recorded for this month which include: Anan, Amuyong, Banaba, Banga, Bangkudo, Barok, Baslayan, Batbat, Bunuang, Catmon, Dangkalan, Domalta, Kalampinay, Kulayan, Kuliat, Imamangal, Inagdong, Iniam, Iniol, Ipil, Lapnog, Luwas-luwas, Magabo, Maranggo, Narra, Pagatpat, Panapuan, Saleng, Tagalilong, Taluto, and Tebey.

Other cavity nesters

Four Blue-naped Parrot nests were visited with two nests having two eggs each. Meanwhile, two Blue-headed Racket-tail were climbed in which a single nest currently has three hatchlings. Three Red-headed Woodpecker's nests were also visited in which two were recently discovered nests. One of these nests has two fledglings already while another has two hatchlings; no eggs nor hatchlings were recorded on the last nest. Additionally, two recently discovered nests of White-bellied Woodpeckers were visited, with one of them having one fledgling. One newly discovered nest each of the Blue-naped Parrot and Blue-headed Racket-tail were monitored with the former having two eggs and the latter having two hatchlings. A known nest of the White-collared Kingfisher has two existing hatchlings; an infertile egg was also recorded in this nest. Two hatchlings of Brown hawk owl was recorded in an artificial nest box.

Palawan Hornbill Monitoring

The highest number of hornbills observed in a group was four individuals; solitary individuals were also recorded. They were seen perching, calling, making noise, and foraging in trees of Anagas, Lanite, Gmelina, Cashew, Acacia, Iniam, Taluto, Mango, Kulayan, and Coconut in Omoi, Candez, Kasipulo, Manambaling, Poblacion, Bulalakaw, Luyang, and Aranlegan Area. Some of them were seen flying in Bgy. Poblacion and Bgy. Bohol.

Two nests of the Palawan Hornbill were visited; no eggs nor hatchlings were observed in both nests.

Figure 4. A Palawan Hornbill visiting a nest captured by a camera trap.@KFI

Other wildlife species

Thirty-six (36) species were recorded in Omoi reforestation site while 40 species were recorded from a single-day monitoring in Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) stations in the DICH. 19 species were observed in both areas namely: Ashy Drongo, Asian Glossy Starling, Barred Buttonquail, Blue-headed Racket-tail, Dollarbird, Green Imperial Pigeon, Grey-cheeked Bulbul, Hill Mynah, Hooded Pitta, Lovely Sunbird, Monitor Lizard, Olive-winged Bulbul,

Palawan Hornbill, Pink-necked Green-pigeon, Red Junglefowl, Spotted Dove, Spangled Drongo, Squirrel, and Zebra Dove.

Figure 5. A Long-tailed Macaque capture by a camera trap intended for nest monitoring (left); and a Malaysian Box Turtle observed during monitoring (right) .@KFI

III.OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

There are currently 13,711 wildlings in the main nursery after a portion of them died or planted in the reforestation area. Most of the wildlings are Nato, Palomaria, and Baslayan. In Candez satellite nursery, the current number of wildlings (1289) is just five wildlings less compared to the previous month's inventory (1294); these five wildlings died during the month. The latter nursery houses four species: Bolabog, Baslayan, Magabo, and Nato. There are currently 1324 wildlings in Manambaling satellite nursery from five species including Baslayan, Bolabog, Bunog, Magabo, and Palomaria. No wildlings are present in the growth chamber.

Figure 6. Regular activities in the nursery including cleaning and transferring of wildlings .@KFI

A total of 2949 wildlings was planted in the Omoi (1390) and Candez (1244) reforestation area; this is the first tree-planting activity following months of dry season. Ten species were planted in which the most planted wildlings are Nato (761) and Baslayan (665). The total rainfall observed in Candez was 263mm, in Omoi was 315mm, and in Lagan was 61mm. This month experience the greatest record of rainfall so far this year which enabled our wildlife wardens to continue in the tree-planting activity.

Figure 7. Planting of wildlings in the reforestation area.@KFI

Distribution of housing aid for victims of Typhoon Odette in the island continued for the month. As of this month, a total of 1070 galvanized iron sheets (yero) and 930 kilos of nails were distributed to residents of Bgys. Bacao, Calasag, Catep, Poblacion, San Juan, and Sto. Tomas.

Meanwhile, materials and supplies for the repair of the Katala Environmental Education Center (KEEC) in Dumaran Island has started. The LGU Dumaran and KFI jointly put up funds to repair the said center.

Figure 8. Transport of GI sheets (yero) for the repair of the KEEC in Dumaran Island @KFI

IV. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS, AND ACTIONS TAKEN AND OTHER CONCERNS

Typhoon Odette greatly affected the breeding activities of the Philippine Cockatoo and the Palawan Hornbill on site. While some nest trees remain intact, food sources were meager during the height of the normal breeding season as the dry months continued. Our monitoring continues and hopeful that slowly the vegetation recovers fast and sooner. While there are indications of occupation in some nests until this late, we persist on checking them regularly.

With the change in the local administration in Dumaran, we are hoping to continue the fruitful endeavors on the island in partnership with the municipal and barangay government units. 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 it will not extend inside the DICH specially in the two cockatoo reserves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you very much to the LGU-Dumaran through the leadership of Mayor Arnel Caabay, Vice Mayor Pablico and their able staff, Municipal Administrator Alberto Ajud, 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, Maximo Pineda and volunteers Domingo Sy and Andres Aurelio for their services and efforts provided to the KFI-PCCP Dumaran project.

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