

# KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

May 2022 SUMMARY  
IPPF-PPC, Palawan



13

Bilang ng nagawang  
patrolya



394.05

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng  
patrolya



153.49

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya



5

Bilang ng illegal na  
aktibidades



0

Bilang ng naaresto



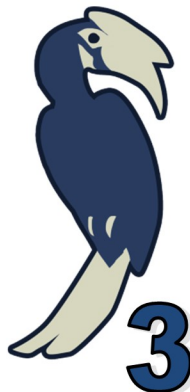
1497

Bilang ng halaman sa nursery



48

Pinakamataas na bilang sa  
tulugan ng Katala



3

Pinakamataas na  
grupo ng Talusi na nakita



6

Pinakamataas na bilang ng  
katala sa kinakainan



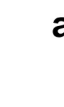
11

10

Bilang ng pugad na may in-  
dikasyon ng cavity nester



Bilang ng inakay ng Katala  
at iba pang cavity nester



Katala  
Foundation  
INCORPORATED



Anonymous  
Donor



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Biodiversity Management Bureau



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## KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY IWAHIG PRISON AND PENAL FARM (IPPF)

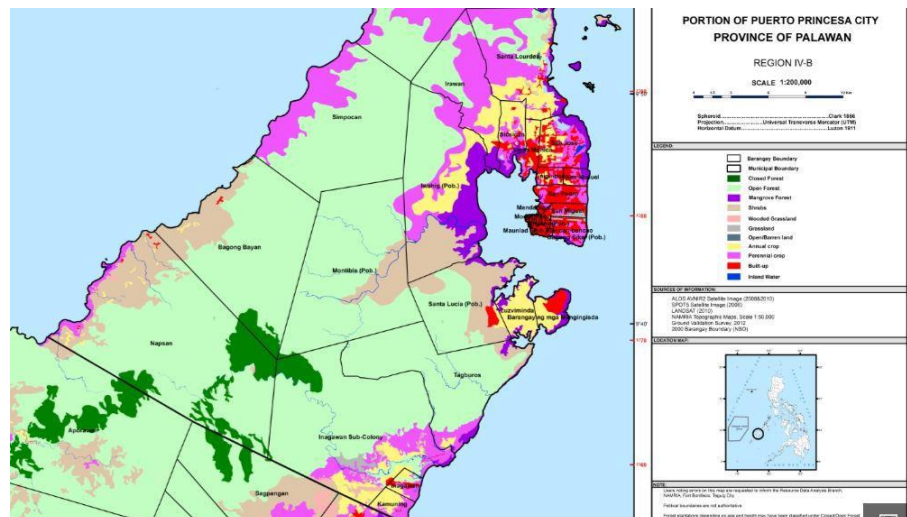
**May 2022**

Prepared by:

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### I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSERVATION AREA, CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES, CONSERVATION TARGETS, AND METHODS

IPPF is part of a larger landscape, the Sulu Sea plain, which comprises the lowlands of central Palawan facing the Sulu Sea and including areas of Puerto Princesa City, and the municipalities of Narra and Aborlan. The area is bordered by the Victoria-Anepahan Range to the west and the Sulu Sea to the east; the northern edge runs roughly along 9° 47' N, the southern along 9° 9' N. Philippine Cockatoos have long been known to persist in the IPPF south of Puerto Princesa City. More recent are flocks of cockatoos from Rasa feeding on the mainland of Narra, and from Iwahig Penal Colony feeding in coastal areas of Puerto Princesa City,



**Figure 1.** Land use of southern Puerto Princesa, including IPPF according to NAMRIA. Large areas were classified as open forest (bright green signature); this is not in line with observations on site, where large areas of closed forests were recorded particularly in portions of Iwahig, Tagburus (“Zigzag”) and Montible (Source: NAMRIA)

particularly in the compound of the Western Command (WESCOM) and Bgy. Banca-Banca. Large parts of the coastal plains are cultivated, mainly with coconuts and rice paddies, particularly in Narra and Iwahig, where irrigation is available. Extensive areas of disturbed grassland-forest mosaics persist, which are habitats for a surprisingly high number of Palawan endemics. One explanation for this phenomenon could be that the present vegetation resembles that of some periods in the Pleistocene. These areas are used as pastures, but also for the collection of a wide variety of forest products. Grass fires are a regular occurrence and partly the vegetation is adapted to these occurrences (*Antidesma* fire savanna). Extensive evergreen and semi-evergreen lowland forests exist at the foot of the Victoria Anepahan



Range, on fossil limestone reefs in Narra and Aborlan, south of the Bay of Puerto and in the Iwahig Penal Colony. Particularly the latter area is of outstanding conservation importance. All endemic lowland bird species are recorded from the area. Globally threatened species, aside from the Cockatoo, include Palawan Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron napoleonis*, Blue-headed Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platenae*, Palawan Hornbill *Anthracoceros marchei*, Red-headed Flameback *Chrysocolaptes erythrocephalus*, Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*, Falcated Wren-babbler *Ptilocichla falcata*, and Palawan Flycatcher *Ficedula platenae*. Because of the abundance of brackish and freshwater wetlands Iwahig Penal Colony is an important wintering ground for waterbirds, including the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*.

### Conservation Objectives

1. Maintain the species diversity and function of ecosystems and species within Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF).
2. Identify and preserve priority sites for conservation and maintain their ecological functions.
3. Prevent or report to enforcing agencies illegal activities that compromise the integrity of the conservation area.

### Conservation Targets

1. Increased number of Philippine Cockatoo breeding pairs in Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm by at least 10% by 2024 (Baseline: average breeding pairs 2019 to 2021: 9.3).
2. Reduced threats in the area by 50% from 2022 to 2024.
3. Restored at least two hectares of cockatoo breeding and foraging habitats annually by 2024
4. Established a critical habitat for the Philippine cockatoo and other threatened wildlife species within the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm and support the protection of the proposed Montible watershed.

### Methods

Deputized wardens patrol by foot or by boat monthly within site. 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 bioindicators ([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, prison farms, protected area office wherever it applies.

## II. PATROL TEAM AND EFFORT

The patrol team composed of KFI, PCSDS, DENR, IPPF personnel, and wildlife wardens conducted 13 patrols and monitoring at foraging areas within the city, breeding habitat and the surroundings of the penal farm. The team covered **394.05km in May**. Please refer to the list of team members on the last page.

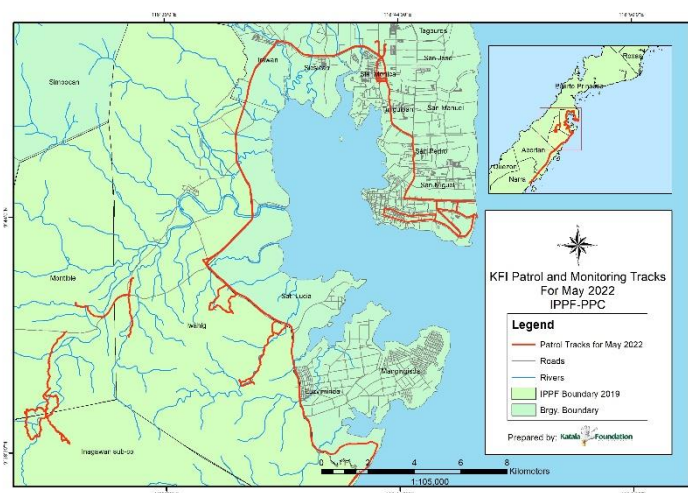


Figure 2. Patrol tracks for May 2022 ©KFI

### III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

#### A. WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

- *Intensive monitoring in foraging and roosting areas continued.* Roosting cockatoos were monitored in two roost sites within the penal farm and the city area. The highest recorded count in the city was 48, while there are no roosting cockatoos in the Montible roost site. As daytime breaks (5:20 am-5:45 pm), cockatoos in the city were observed foraging Pagatpat and Malunggay before dispersing in different parts of the city. In San Miguel, cockatoos were observed flying towards Cabiguen St. heading towards Robinsons area. We noted that Taluto, Malabulak, and Banaran are now fruiting in the city area; while Pagatpat fruits are scarce. In Montible, cockatoos were observed flying from Malabo Forest, crossing Tagtalaba and Bacoco river to Iwahig central to forage on other fruiting trees.
- The composite team of KFI, DENR, and wildlife wardens conducted a seven-day nest monitoring and habitat assessment in Malabo, Tagtalaba, Menor, Sta. Lucia, and Luzviminda forests. Nine nest trees and six potential nest trees were visited/discovered for the month. Out of the six potential nest trees, three were confirmed to have eggs or hatchlings of Philippine cockatoos and Blue-naped parrots, while the other three indicate nest activity such as presence of feces and feathers. All potential nest trees were in Montible area, where the KFI staff camped for three days to search for other possible nest cavities. As of May, we have recorded 12 eggs of the Philippine cockatoo; five hatched, two remaining eggs, and five were rotten or missing. Meanwhile, one of the five hatchlings was rescued due to a potential poaching incident. At the same time, the other four will be ringed, and biometric data will be collected on subsequent monitoring since the hatchlings were estimated to be 3-7 days old. Other cavity nesters recorded for this year's breeding season are the Blue-naped parrot with four hatchlings, two of which were possibly poached, Hill myna with three eggs. However, two failed to hatch, while a Dollarbird was also recorded, but the egg was believed to be predated or was dropped from the nest tree.



**Figure 3.** Two hatchlings of Philippine cockatoo in Sta. Lucia (left) and the rescued cockatoo in Luzviminda from potential poaching due to indications on the ground. (right) @KFI

- *Observation of wildlife and other cavity nesters monitoring.* At least three Palawan Hornbills and eight Blue-naped parrots were seen foraging in Malabo Forest; we also recorded a Blue-headed racket-tail in inside the Montible sub-colony and in Tagatalaba River. Other avian species recorded in May include tracks of Palawan peacock pheasant, Red-headed Flameback, Spot-throated Flameback, Great Slaty Woodpecker, White-bellied Sea eagle, juvenile Crested Serpent Eagle, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher,

Black-naped Oriole, Common Iora, Palawan Drongo, Palawan tit, Rufous-tailed tailorbird, Melodious babbler; Ashy-fronted Bulbul, White-vented Shama, Grey-capped Emerald dove, Hooded pitta, and Blyth's frogmouth. Non-avian species include Palawan-Flying Squirrel, Palawan Stink badger, Palawan bearded pig, Palawan porcupine (road kill), Schultze's Pit Viper, Red-tailed green rat snake, and a Paradise tree snake.



**Figure 4.** Schultze's Pit Viper (left) and Blyth's frogmouth (right) documented during patrols @KFI

## B. THREAT OBSERVATIONS

In Luzviminda, encroachment remains prominent during our visit, two trees were cut down, and a charcoal pit was seen operating, but no individuals were seen in the area. Meanwhile, near the nest tree, we observed the footprints of a possible poacher. We saw signs that the nest tree was climbed prior to our monitoring upon our arrival at the nest tree. The team decided to rescue the Philippine cockatoo hatchling, and it was immediately transported to our rescue center in Narra, Palawan after securing a transport certificate from the PCSDS. In the same area, we noted that the two hatchlings of the Blue-naped parrot were poached in a known nest tree; we also saw footprints at the base of the nest tree that indicates that the poachers climbed the tree just minutes before our arrival. Some snares for peacocks were also seen along the trails and we destroyed them immediately.

In Sta. Lucia and Montible, snares were also present; The team disarmed and collected some snares where tracks of wild pigs, porcupines, and peacocks were seen. Meanwhile, we saw one person in Malabo Forest shaping rattan peel; we estimated his product to be at least 30 kilos. He was already in the area for 20 days and had constructed a small hut in the area. In Sta. Lucia, while waiting for our transport vehicle, we encountered at least seven individuals that were encroaching in the mangrove area. The anti-squatting office of the city of Puerto Princesa immediately demolishes the shanties in the area as we observed. A certain Primativa Cuyos was pointed out as the instigator of the encroachment. She was also allegedly collecting fees/donations amounting to P25,000 for each lot.

## IV. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS, AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- During the monitoring, we observed several illegally cut trees. We hope these cases were reported by our fellow team members from the DENR and PCSDS who joined the said monitoring.



- Increased patrolling in the sites is necessary to avert further destruction of lowland forests. Our patrols will continue despite challenges, and we hope that law enforcement agencies value patrols as a vital step to prevent destruction.
- Scarcity of active nest trees, as of this month, only six nest trees of the Philippine cockatoos were active; We have been able to identify four new nest trees this month nevertheless search for new nest trees will still be scheduled for next month in IPPF.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Policies on and better enforcement of lowland forest protection and conservation must be implemented and sustained, especially within IPPF and the Victoria Anepa'am Mountain Range (VAMR)! Lowland forests harbour more biodiversity than montane forests; thus, they should be protected against encroachment and further destruction.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We also appreciate the help of Mr. Jessie Escandalio and Rogelio Abison of DENR and CTOIII Earl Jude A. Arias from the IPPF. We also want to thank those community members who send us their cockatoo sightings in the city.

To all those who, in one way or the other, had contributed to the achievement of our shared vision for the conservation of biodiversity in the IPPF, great thanks!

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**Figure 5.** Rescued cockatoo from Luzviminda are now rehabilitated at the KI in Narra for eventual release (top), snapshots during the monitoring in Malabo Forest (middle), and some species captured from our camera traps in Malabo Forest (bottom) ©MBOnG, KFI





**Figure 6.** Signs of nest activity in one of the potential nest trees found in Malabo Forest (top), Charcoal pits and snares seen in Luzviminda Forest that were destroyed (middle), and rattan collector found in Malabo Forest (bottom). ©MBong, KFI