KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

March 2022 SUMMARY
Dumaran Island Critical Habitat
Dumaran, Palawan

15

Bilang ng nagawang patrolya

170.13

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng patrolya

27.63

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya

0

Bilang ng natanim

14

Bilang ng nabisitang pugad 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

30

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

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KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

April 2022 SUMMARY
Dumaran Island Critical Habitat
Dumaran, Palawan

17

Bilang ng nagawang patrolya

101.21

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng patrolya

41.18

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya

0

Bilang ng natanim

20

Bilang ng nabisitang pugad 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

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

March - April 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).

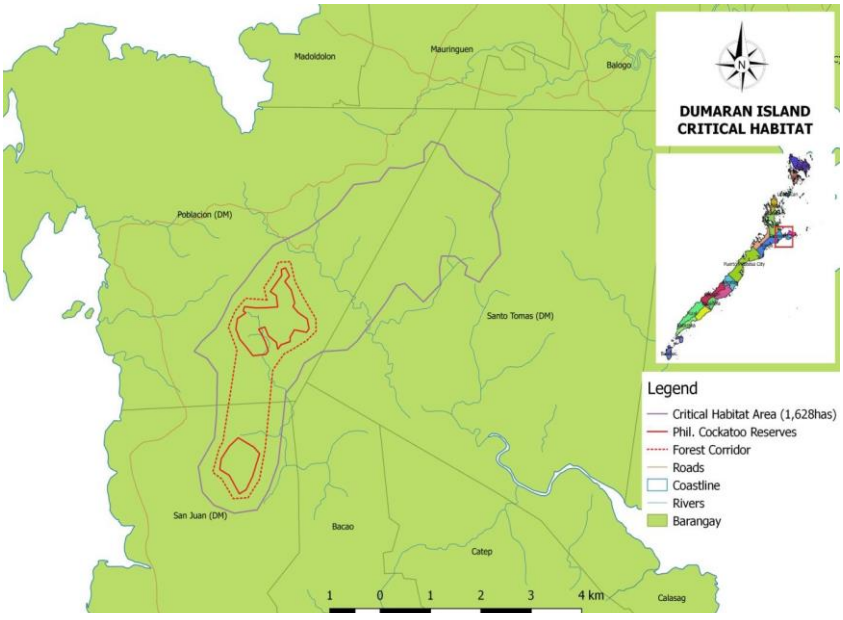

Figure 1. Dumaran Island Critical Habitat connects two locally declared cockatoo reserves and establishes a corridor through reforestation and assisted regeneration.

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

The nest monitoring and patrols are conducted by our wildlife wardens, volunteers and PCCP staff: Michael Plazos, Nestor Arzaga, Orlando Balmonte, Felipe Condesa, Eddie Derecho, Angelu Paduga, Maximo Pineda and volunteers Domingo Sy and Andres Aurelio.

Regular monitoring of forested areas inside and outside the DICH were conducted by KFI staff and wardens. Possible threats, fruiting trees, and wildlife were recorded. Moreover, suitable driftwoods that can be used as artificial nest boxes (ANB) were collected. The breeding season of cavity nesters have commenced and regular monitoring and visitation of known nest trees and potential nests were continuous. In total 20 nest trees of several cavity nesters were visited.

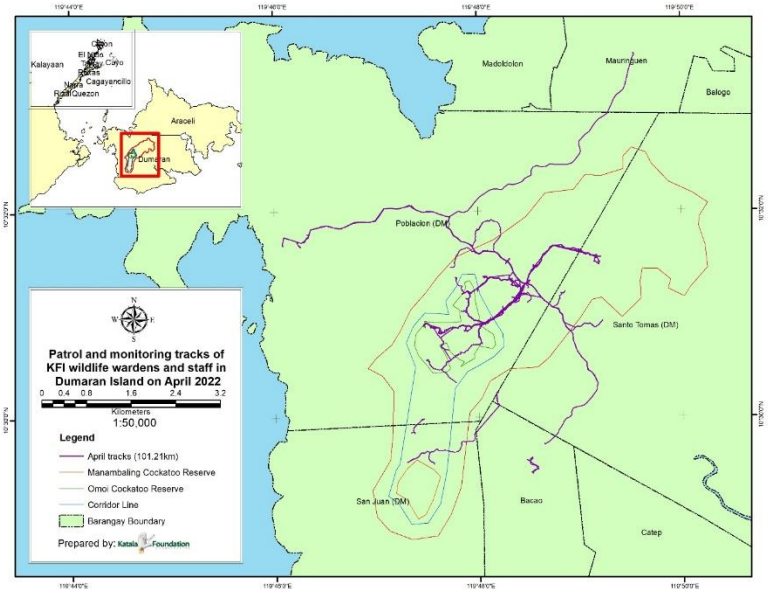

Figure 2. Patrol tracks for the month of April @KFI

We covered distances of 170.13 and 101.21kms in 15 and 17 patrols for March and April respectively within the Omoi and Manangbaling Protected Area, forested area within Bulalakaw, Camaya, Candez, Kasipulo and Bgy. San Juan. Wardens installed three artificial nest boxes (ANBs) in March out of fallen cavities.

Regular monitoring in the roost was conducted for the month. Ten to 18 cockatoos were observed at the site. Breeding pairs have temporary moved to the forest due to the season and thus, cockatoos in the roost were fewer compared to other months. In April, there were mostly 18 cockatoos observed in the roost every morning (15 times) and afternoon counts (16 times). Weather conditions in March was fair with only 2 occasions of rain in the last two days while in April weather in the roost varied with records of fine weather (12 days), rain (six days), and cloudy and windy days (12 days).

PATROL OBSERVATIONS

Philippine Cockatoo Breeding season assessment and monitoring

Three Philippine cockatoo nests were visited out of the 20 monitored trees; there were no recorded eggs from these nests, however, there were already signs of occupations, e.g., feces, cut twigs, and small feathers, on all nests. Three ANB of the said species were also visited; similar to the regular nests, no eggs were recorded from these ANB but signs of occupations were present. Visiting cockatoo pair was recorded by installed camera trap in one of the ANB; both of these cockatoos were tagged individuals from a previous breeding season.

Figure 3. Cut twigs observed below visited nests (top-left); SWEO Arzaga as he emerges in a cavity nest (top-right); A cockatoo pair was regular visitors to ANB 20; no occupation was observed yet (bottom) @KFI

Supplementation of natural population

The aviary was fixed and cleaned for possible rescue and release of cockatoo hatchlings for this year's breeding season. Rescued hatchlings from other sites may be translocated to the

island to supplement the natural population of cockatoos which may be already subject to inbreeding or population ageing.

Foraging

Two species, i.e., Kulayan, Kalampinay, were observed to be fruiting in the phenology plots of Omoi, Candez, and Manambaling while Ipil, Betad, Kulayan, and Kalampinay were seen to be flowering. Many Pagatpat trees were also recorded to be fruiting and flowering but no observation of leaf growth or abscission which is in contrast with the three former plots with numerous leaf activities.

Thirty-one food-providing trees were recorded in this period of which 28 have fruits, five have flowers, and two have nectars, consumed by several wildlife including the Philippine Cockatoo and other cavity nesters. Specifically, Bignay, Bunuang, Kalampinay, Kulayan, Ipil, Luwas-luwas, Narra, and Pagatpat are the ones foraged by Katala in the island.

Figure 4. A fruiting Iniol (left) and Banaba (right) observed during monitoring. @KFI

Other cavity nesters

Four Blue-naped Parrot nests were visited with a single nest having two eggs. Two nest of Blue- headed racquet tail nests were visited in which one has no sign of occupation and the second nest with biting's on the side of the nesthole.

Four new potential nest trees were also visited. Two of these are potential nests of Red-headed Woodpecker, one of White-bellied Woodpecker, and one of Blue-headed Racket tail. The nest of the White-bellied Woodpecker was recorded to have one egg. Two ANB for other cavity nesters were also visited with one nest occupied by a pair of Blue-naped Parrot incubating two eggs. Other birds also visited an ANB i.e., Red-headed Flameback and Asian Glossy Starling.

Figure 5. A Red-headed Flameback (left) and an Asian Glossy Starling (right) visited an ANB. @KFI

Palawan Hornbill Monitoring

One to four hornbills were recorded from 25 observations in eight areas of the island i.e., Omoi, Candez, Manambaling, Bacao, Otok, Bulalakaw, Baing, and Luyang. Most of these observations were from Omoi Cockatoo Reserve. Hornbills were observed perching, feeding, and calling on Kulayan, Coconut, Balite, Katmon, Ipil, Maniksik, Cashew, and Saleng trees. Two hornbill nests and one ANB for the species were visited but no signs of occupations though one had dried leaves on nest as were observed.

Figure 6. A hornbill perched on a cashew tree (left); a Green Crested Lizard observed in the forest (right). @KFI

Other wildlife species

Thirty-nine (39) species were recorded in Omoi reforestation site while 36 species were recorded from a single-day monitoring in Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) stations in the DICH. Twenty-five species were recorded in both areas; these are Ashy Drongo, Asian Box Turtle, Asian Glossy Starling, Barred Buttonquail, Black-naped Oriole, Blue-headed Racket-tail, Blue-naped Parrot, Common Iora, Copper-throated Sunbird, Oriental Dollar Bird, Green Imperial Pigeon, Grey-cheeked Bulbul, Hill Mynah, Hooded Pitta, Lovely Sunbird, Palawan Water Monitor, Olive-winged Bulbul, Palawan Hornbill, Red Junglefowl, Spotted Dove, Spangled Drongo, White-collared Kingfisher, Yellow-throated Leafbird, Zebra Dove, and Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel.

Figure 7. Black-chinned Fruit-dove (left) and Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher (right) recorded during patrolling and monitoring. @KFI

Ground camera traps recorded several species including Philippine Megapode, Palawan Water Monitor, Common Palm Civet, Hooded Pitta, Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel, Palawan Tree-shrew, Long-tailed Macaque, and rats.

Figure 8. Northern Palawan Tree-squirrel (top-left); Palawan Tree Shrew (top-right); Palawan Water Monitor (center-left); Philippine Megapode (center-right); Long-tailed Macaque (bottom-left); and Asian Palm Civet (bottom-right) recorded by a ground camera trap. @KFI

III.OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

There are currently 17,009 wildlings in the main nursery; this is the sum of the previous month's total (14684) and this month's collected wildlings (2615). Most of the wildlings are Nato (4964), Palomari (4579), Baslayan (2526), and Dumaran (1165). In Candez satellite nursery, 1378 wildlings are currently available after dead wildlings (31) were subtracted and collected wildlings (53) were added on last month's tally (1356). On the other hand, Manambaling satellite nursery houses 1329 wildlings; 75 wildlings were collected while four died this month on the said nursery. No wildlings are present in the growth chamber. Moreover, no wildlings were planted due to scarcity of rain in the island. The highest rainfall data was recorded in Candez i.e., 326mm, followed by Lagan (75mm) and Omoi (seven mm). Regular activities in the nursery e.g., potting, landscaping, cleaning, were continuous.

Figure 9. Potting of soil (left) and arranging of wildlings (right) as part of regular activities in the nursery. @KFI

As of this writing, we have distributed 12 pieces of galvanized iron sheets (12ft each), 10 kilos umbrella nails each to 88 households and 60 more households got the same amount of corrugated sheets, umbrella nails and additional two rolls of sawali from Barangays Bacao, Bohol, Poblacion, Sto. Tomas, San Juan, Catep, and Calasag. Two hundred sacks of rice were also distributed to island barangays that was coordinated with the LGU MDRRMO. The LGU Dumaran was kind to allow us use of three municipal trucks to haul the materials from Puerto Princesa City to Sta. Teresita Ligit and they as well provided the bangka to ferry all these materials to the island of Dumaran. KFI did initial assessment of damages on housing of these beneficiaries along with the MPDO of Dumaran and the MDRRMO. We are also helping a church in San Juan, Dumaran rebuild their chapel. We shall monitor the progress of all these relief efforts. We also thank dearly our generous donors, private individuals and supporters of the Katala Foundation Inc.

We are hoping our “Ayudang Pambahay alay ni Abukay sa Dumaran” will help residents and local partners get back to normal after damaged by Typhoon Odette. We encouraged each recipient to plant as well indigenous trees that support local wildlife in Dumaran especially those that provide food to target species in the area.

IV.ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS, AND ACTIONS TAKEN

With the change in the local administration in Dumaran, we are hoping to continue the fruitful endeavor in the island in partnership with the local government unit. 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.

Figure 10. Recipients of housing materials received sawali, yero, and nails to jumpstart their recovery after the typhoon Odette. @KFI

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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Anonymous Donor

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