

# KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

March 2022 SUMMARY  
IPPF-PPC, Palawan



13

Bilang ng nagawang  
patrolya



210.2

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng  
patrolya



128.1

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya



5

Bilang ng illegal na  
aktibidades



0

Bilang ng naaresto



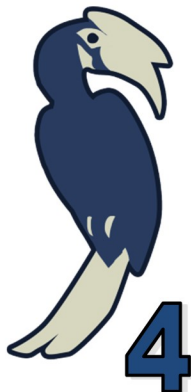
877

Bilang ng halaman sa nursery



55

Pinakamataas na bilang sa  
tulugan ng Katala



4

Pinakamataas na  
grupo ng Talusi na nakita



30

Pinakamataas na bilang ng  
katala sa kinakainan



5

5



Bilang ng itlog ng Katala

Bilang ng pugad na may in-  
dikasyon ng cavity nester



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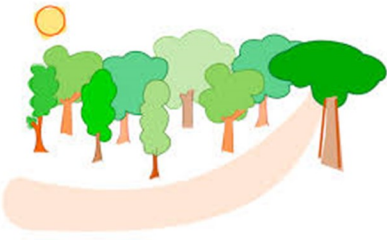


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# KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

April 2022 SUMMARY  
IPPF-PPC, Palawan



7

Bilang ng nagawang  
patrolya



215.7

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng  
patrolya



77.6

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya



3

Bilang ng illegal na  
aktibidades



0

Bilang ng naaresto



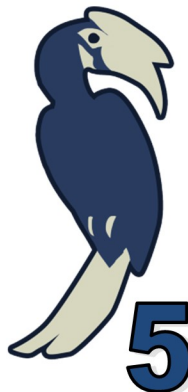
1497

Bilang ng halaman sa nursery



40

Pinakamataas na bilang sa  
tulugan ng Katala



5

Pinakamataas na  
grupo ng Talusi na nakita



8

Pinakamataas na bilang ng  
katala sa kinakainan



9

17

Bilang ng pugad na may in-  
dikasyon ng cavity nester



Bilang ng itlog ng Katala at  
iba pang cavity nester



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)

**March - April 2022**

Prepared by:

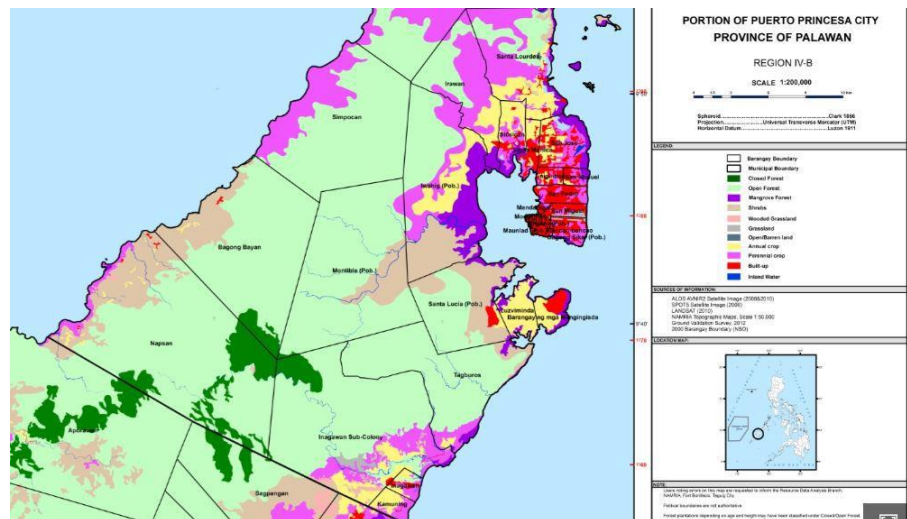
**Matt Brian P. Ong, Vicente Abendan Jr., Peter Widmann and Indira D.L. Widmann**

### 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,

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



**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)



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 **210.2km** **215.7km** in March and April respectively. Please refer to the list of team members on the last page.

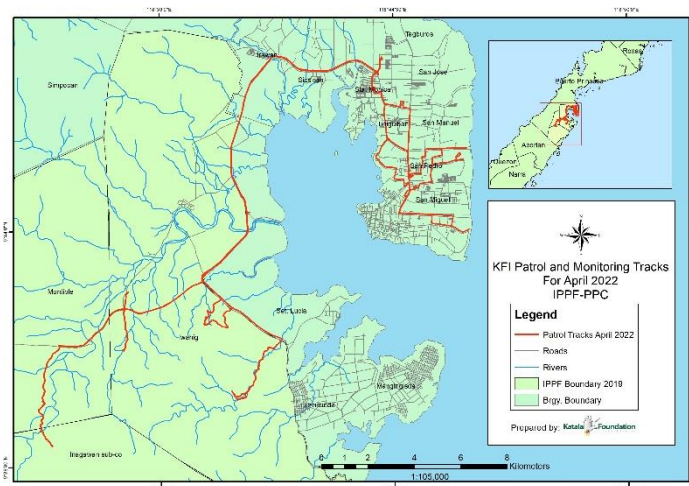


Figure 2. Patrol tracks for April 2022 ©KFI

### 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 55 and 40 in March and April respectively, while there are no roosting cockatoos in the Montible roost site. During the daytime (5:30 am-5:30 pm), cockatoos in the city were observed foraging Pagatpat and Malunggay before dispersing in different parts of the city. In San Miguel, 12-20 cockatoos were observed flying towards Malvar from Cabiguen St. Some were flying from the city coliseum to BM beach. 20 cockatoos were observed flying towards the new airport from Mercado de San Miguel. Concerned citizens also reported cockatoo sightings of 20-30 individuals in the Mandaragat area and 15 individuals in San Manuel. Eight cockatoos were also seen in Purok Gumamela, Brgy San Manuel; between 7:00 am to 8:00 am, cockatoos were foraging in Apitong trees and then flew towards the seaside. We noted that Taluto, Malabulak, and Banaran are now flowering or 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. In Luzviminda 2-4 cockatoos were seen foraging in Taluto tree, and up to 5 hornbills were seen roosting in a Bayoso tree near the areas of one of KFI's volunteer.
- In March, the composite team of KFI, PCSD, DENR, and wildlife wardens conducted an eight-day nest monitoring and habitat assessment in Malabo, Tagtalaba, Menor, Sta. Lucia, Sibakan and Luzviminda forest. Thirty-two nest trees, including some inactive nest trees from the previous years, were visited for the month. Only five nest trees indicate that cockatoos or other nesting birds are now occupying the nest trees. Feces and feathers were observed in the base and inside the nest cavities. Meanwhile, we recorded **five cockatoo eggs** from 3 nest trees in Luzviminda, Menor, and Sta. Lucia. Some of the 32 nest trees visited are not standing anymore, and some nest cavities have already been destroyed.
- In April, we banded on a Philippine cockatoo hatchling in Luzviminda where in previous month, we recorded three eggs in the nest cavity of the said hatchlings; upon monitoring, we noted that two out of the three eggs were rotten.

**Figure 3.** Snapshots during the leg banding of the Cockatoo (top) @KFI



- Meanwhile, two eggs of a Blue-naped parrot were also recorded in one of the two active nest trees in Luzviminda. In Sta. Lucia, one cockatoo egg went missing and was believed to be predated by Monitor Lizard; two hatchlings of the Philippine Cockatoo were also recorded in a known active nest tree. Meanwhile, an egg of the Oriental Dollarbird was dropped/predated by the parent in the same area. In Malabo and Montible, We recorded two eggs of the Blue-naped parrot, two eggs of Philippine Cockatoo, and three eggs of the Palawan Scops Owl. We also recorded three potential nest trees, including one nest tree with two cavities occupied by the Philippine Cockatoo and Blue-naped parrot, while

the Blue-naped parrot and Hill Myna occupied two nest trees. These nest trees will be verified next month.

- *Observation of wildlife and other cavity nesters monitoring.* At least two to four Palawan Hornbills and six Blue-naped parrots were seen foraging in Malabo Forest; we also recorded a Blue-headed racket-tail inside the Montible sub-colony and in Tagatalaba River. Other avian species recorded in two months include tracks of Palawan peacock pheasant, Red-headed Flameback, White-bellied Woodpecker, 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. Non-avian species include Palawan-Flying Squirrel, Palawan Stink badger, Palawan bearded pig, Philippine Mock Viper, Palawan porcupine (quills), Red-tailed green rat snake, and a Paradise tree snake.

## **B. THREAT OBSERVATIONS**

### **MARCH 2022**

During the monitoring in Luzviminda, at least ten remnants of felled trees were already hauled. We also recorded three charcoal pits that were currently burning in the area. Some individuals were also seen bathing in the river, while two individuals were seen carrying supplies going inside the forest. In Anibungan forest, two shanties were recorded while three individuals were observed hauling the charcoal they made in the area.

Meanwhile, we also observed some signs of poaching in Menor Forest, foot tracks near the nest tree were seen at least 10 meters along the trail. In Luzviminda Forest, we also noted that some individuals passed on the trails near the nest tree with three eggs. Poaching in the area was observed in the past two consecutive years.

### **APRIL 2022**

This month, poaching and encroachment in the IPPF were recorded; at least one hatchling of Philippine Cockatoo was poached in Montible forest. Due to flooding and heavy rain, no signs of the alleged perpetrator aside from the cuttings in the nest tree itself and a missing hatchling. In Luzviminda, at least four individuals were seen bathing in the riverbanks along the forest's trails; we also saw a charcoal pit in one of the shanties near the river area and markings/pathways of hauled trees near Sta Lucia sub prison.

Expansion of encroachment in Montible was also noted; a known nest tree near Km 32 was not visited since violators infested the area. Meanwhile, encroachment in the Malabo area was also visible with structures and other shanties were constructed near the Malinao river that supplies water in some parts of the city.

## **IV. Other Highlights**

In March, we reinstalled the artificial nest box (ANB) that was felled by the typhoon on a 30m tall Amugis tree near the Montible sub-prison. Another ANB made out of dead trees was made and will be installed after finalizing the design. The fencing of Montible nursery was now complete.

Meanwhile, the wildlife wardens collected six bags of Taluto seeds in Bancao-bancao of which 620 Taluto seedlings were propagated in the Montible sub-colony nursery.

## **V. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS, AND ACTIONS TAKEN**

- During the monitoring, we observed several illegally cut trees. Since the DENR and PCSDS representatives were present during said monitoring, we hope these illegal activities are also reported to their respective offices.

- 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.
- Construction of a small hut to store equipment and serve as seedlings shade will be constructed after the breeding season activities. Improvised seed partitions and seedbeds will be made to accommodate wildlings and seedlings collected for the subsequent months.
- Scarcity of active nest trees, as of this month, only five nest trees of the Philippine cockatoos were active hence search for new nest trees will be scheduled next month in Malabo forest.

## VI. 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 harbor more biodiversity than montane forests; thus, they should be protected against encroachment and further destruction.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful and appreciative to our partners from the DENR-CENRO Puerto Princesa City through CENRO Office and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) through Atty. Matta, Western Command, and Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF) through CSupt. Joel R. Calvelo for their unrelenting support.

We also appreciate the help of Mr. Jessie Escandalio and Rogelio Abison of DENR, Mark Española and Jenö Becira of PCSDS, 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 4.** Taluto seeds falling from the tree (top-left), wildlife warden checking one of the active nest trees in IPPF (top-right). PCSD and DENR staff helping carry the ANBs that was installed near the area (left).  
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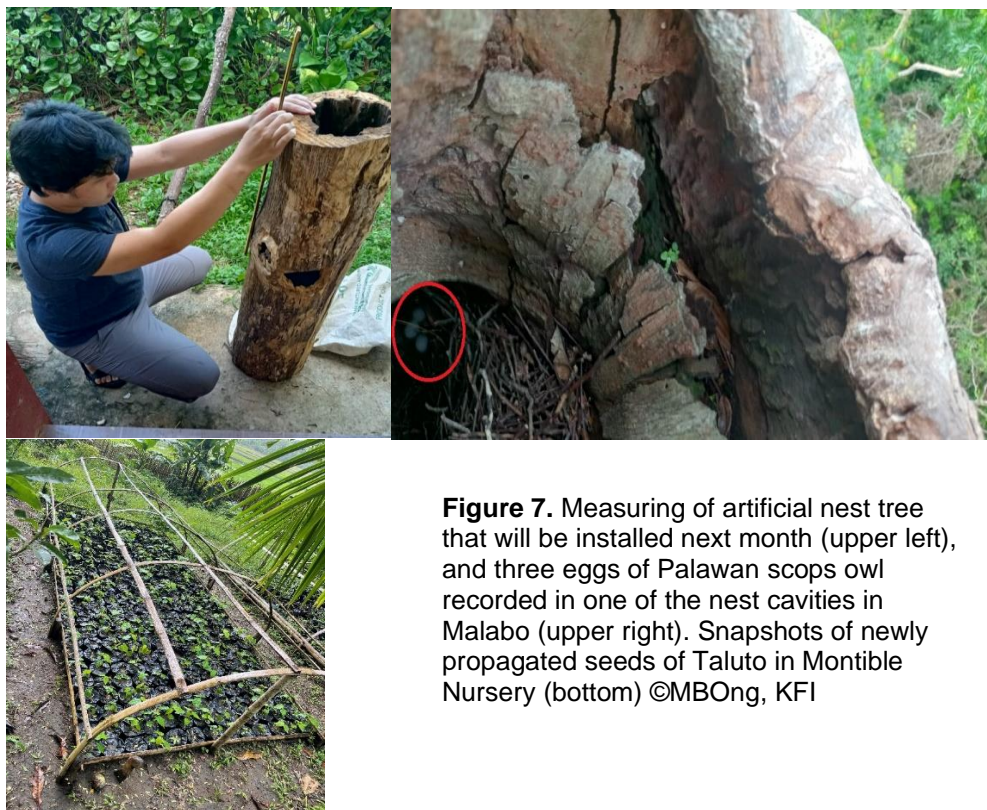


**Figure 5.** The composite team passing on the top of a fallen tree in Anibungan Forest (left). Part of Sta Lucia and Sibakan Forest with abundant tall trees suitable for cavity nesters(right)  
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**Figure 6.** Charcoal pits seen in Luzviminda Forest (middle) and fallen trees allegedly for charcoal making (bottom). ©MBong, KFI



**Figure 7.** Measuring of artificial nest tree that will be installed next month (upper left), and three eggs of Palawan scops owl recorded in one of the nest cavities in Malabo (upper right). Snapshots of newly propagated seeds of Taluto in Montible Nursery (bottom) ©MBong, KFI





**Figure 8.** An old measuring tape was seen on one of the trails in Sta. Lucia (top-left). Charcoal pit and slabs of wood near one of the shanties in Luzviminda(top-right). Destruction of Luzviminda river due to illegal cutting of trees and encroachment (middle) flooding in Montible river and Tagtalaba river. (bottom-left) a pathway of a hauled tree near Sta. Lucia sub-prison. ©MBong, KFI