

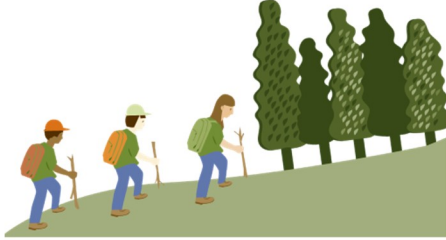
KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

July 2022 SUMMARY
IPPF-PPC, Palawan



10

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



122.1

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot ng
patrolya



33.3

Kabuuang oras ng patrolya



4

Bilang ng illegal na
aktibidades



0

Bilang ng naaresto



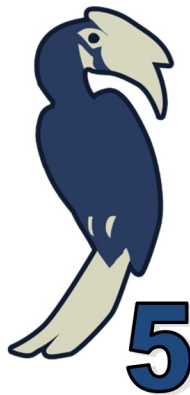
1605

Bilang ng halaman sa nursery



52

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



5

Pinakamataas na
grupo ng Talusi na nakita



20

Pinakamataas na bilang ng
katala sa kinakainan



4

Bilang ng napalipad na ina-
kay ng Katala



09675176935



048-434-7693



kficacatua2016@gmail.com



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

July 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,

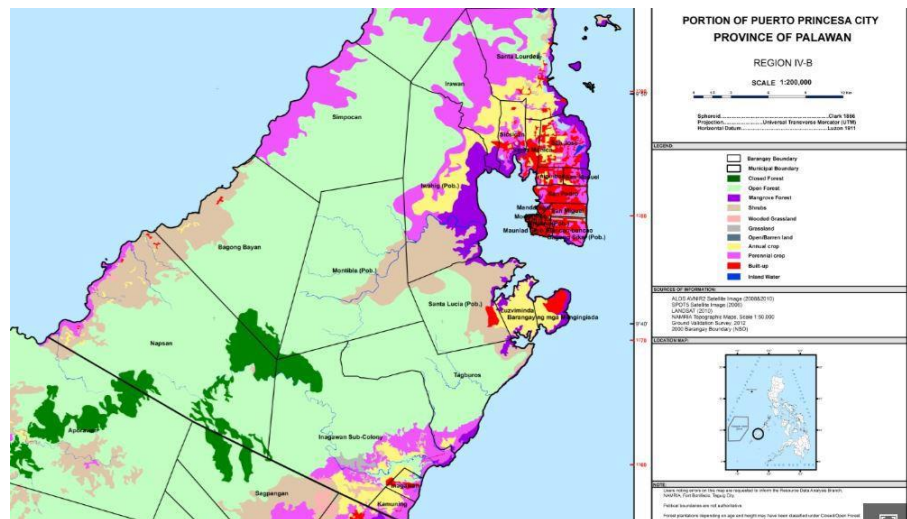


Figure 1. Land use of southern Puerto Princesa, including IPPF according to NAMRIA. Large areas were classified as open forest (bright green signature); this is not in line with observations on site, where large areas of closed forests were recorded particularly in portions of Iwahig, Tagburus (“Zigzag”) 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 10 patrols and monitoring at foraging areas within the city, breeding habitat, and the surroundings of the penal farm. The team covered **122.1 km in July**. Please refer to the list of team members on the last page.

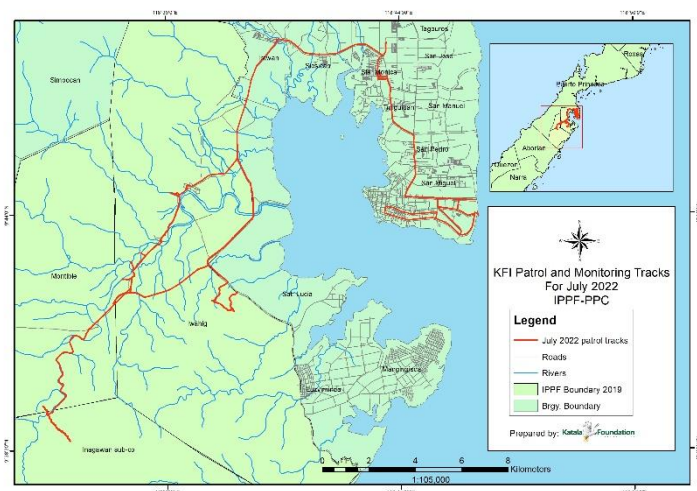


Figure 2. Patrol tracks for July 2022 ©KFI

III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

A. WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

- *Intensive monitoring in foraging and roosting areas continued.* Roosting cockatoos were monitored at two roost sites within the penal farm and the city area. A range from 18 to 52 cockatoos were recorded at the roost site by one of KFI's volunteers in the city. At daytime (5:30 am–6:35 am), cockatoos in the city were observed foraging in mostly Pagatpat and Kapok trees in the area before dispersing in different parts of the city. At Camella, 3–20 cockatoos were observed and flew from Jacana St to the Abueg area. Concerned citizens also reported cockatoo sightings in San Manuel, Libis San Pedro, and Bagong Sikat. A slight increase in roosting cockatoos in the city was also noted in July as expectedly the young are joining the adults at the roost site shortly after the breeding season. Information and education campaigns will be prioritized to mitigate the problem of persecution in the city. Outside city proper cockatoos were recorded in Sta. Lucia and Montible (Malabo Forest, Menor, and Tagatalaba) forests. Some were crossing the Malinao River and Bacoco River to Iwahig Central to forage. While there are no roosting cockatoos at the Montible roost site, some have been observed roosting in their natural breeding grounds. Some indications of roosting cockatoos in their nest trees are presence of feces and feathers inside nest cavities.
- The composite team of KFI, DENR, PCSDS, and wildlife wardens conducted a total of eight patrol days of nest and habitat monitoring in Sta Lucia, Montible, and Inagawan forests. Ten nest trees and a potential nest tree were visited. For this year's breeding season, six hatchlings of cockatoos were banded within the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm. On July 20 we were able to band the last hatchling from Montible. Of the six hatchlings four already fledged, one was rescued, and one is expected to fledge in August. Other cavity nesters recorded for this year's breeding season are the Blue-naped parrot with seven hatchlings, two of which were poached, three fledged successfully and two died; Hill myna with three eggs and a fledgling. Meanwhile, Dollarbird was also recorded, but the egg was probably predated.



Figure 3. Last of this year's batch of Philippine cockatoo hatchlings was banded in July ©MBong KFI

- *Observation of wildlife and other cavity nesters monitoring.* At least five Palawan Hornbills foraging in Montible nursery were seen. Blue-naped parrots were also present in all areas visited for the month. We also recorded a Blue-headed racket-tail inside the Montible sub-colony, and at least four were also observed near one of the known nest trees in Sta. Lucia. Other avian species recorded in July include Palawan peacock pheasant, Hill myna, Spot-throated Flameback, Great Slaty Woodpecker, White-bellied

Sea eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, Black-naped Oriole, Common Iora, Palawan Drongo, Oriental Dollarbird, Palawan tit, Rufous-tailed tailorbird, Palawan fairy blue-bird, White-vented Shama, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, Pink-necked Green-pigeon, Pied Imperial-pigeon, Hooded Pitta, Philippine Scrubfowl. Non-avian species include Palawan-Flying Squirrel, Palawan Tree Squirrel, Palawan Stink badger, Palawan bearded pig, Palawan porcupine (tracks), a snake, and Paradise tree snake.



Figure 4. Spot-throated Flameback (left) and Pink-necked green pigeon (right) in Montible
©MBong KFI

B. THREAT OBSERVATIONS

In Montible, the construction of a house or a hall was seen near the Malinao river using good lumber; meanwhile, inside the forest, we saw two individuals collecting rattan 200m from our camp in Malabo Forest. In Sta. Lucia shavings of rattan were seen at the base of a known nest tree. No signs of a poacher in the nest tree where two cockatoo hatchlings fledged successfully.

In July, two concerned citizens reported through our social media page that two individual cockatoos were seen in a cage at Calle Badenas, WESCOM road, Barangay San Pedro. KFI reported the incident to PCSDS, and an inspection was conducted but to no avail as to details of the possible apprehension. In a follow up, the concerned individuals again reported that the cockatoos are still inside the facility.

IV. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- *Construction of artificial nest boxes (ANBs) and nursery.* Two ANBs were made for the Philippine cockatoo to help address scarcity of nest trees due to loss and destroyed by Typhoon Odette. The nursery which was destroyed by Typhoon Odette was slowly rebuilt and at 80% of completion.
- *Stakeholder's meeting of Green Heart of Palawan Conservation Program.* On July 28, KFI, Wildlife wardens, Culandanum-Tagbanua representatives, DENR, PCSDS, NCIP, LGU, and academic institutions conducted stakeholders meeting in Bulwagang Princesa, in Puerto Princesa City. The agenda of the meeting was to present the results of the camera trapping and forest use survey that was conducted in Culandanum last year, to finalize the concept model for the GHPP project, discuss and rank threats that need to be addressed in the next steps.

V. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS, AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- Increased patrolling is necessary to avert further destruction of lowland forests.
- Continued tree planting within these areas is a must.

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'an 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. TJ 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 Michael Polido of DENR, Mr Mark Espanola of PCSD, 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!

We are indebted to the following organizations and agencies for providing funds for this project:



References

- Critchlow, R., Plumtre, A.J., Alidria, B., Nsubuga, M., Driciru, M., Rwetsiba, A., Wanyama, F., and Beale, C.M. (2017). Improving Law-Enforcement Effectiveness and Efficiency in Protected Areas Using Ranger-collected Monitoring Data. *Conservation Letters* 10, 572-580.
- IUCN (2019). IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2019.1. (www.iucnredlist.org).
- Teacher, A.G.F., Griffiths, D.J., Hodgson, D.J., and Inger, R. (2013). Smartphones in ecology and evolution: a guide for the app-rehensive. *Ecology and Evolution* 3, 5268-5278.



Figure 5. Snapshots during the stakeholder's meeting. ©KFI



Figure 6. Construction of nursery storage room and potting area in Montible Sub-prison (top), construction of house or hall in a forested part of Montible (middle-left), and Ratan collection in Malabo Forest (middle-right), and prototype of artificial nest boxes for cavity nesters that will be installed in Montible (bottom) ©MBOng KFI