



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
MIMAROPA Region

Bgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

E-mail: penropalawan@denr.gov.ph

Telfax No. (048) 433-5638 / (048) 433-5638

June 13, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA
1515 L&S Bldg., Roxas Blvd.
Ermita, Manila

FROM : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

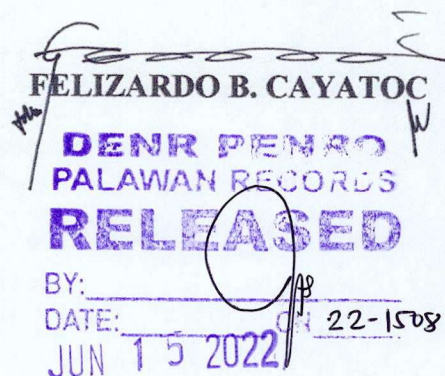
SUBJECT : **MONTHLY REPORT OF KATALA FOUNDATION, INC. (KFI)**
RE: ALLEGED RAMPANT COLLECTION OF FOSSILIZED
TAKLOBO SHELLS IN RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE
SANCTUARY (RIWS)

Forwarded is the memorandum dated May 31, 2022 of CENRO Quezon regarding the alleged rampant collection of fossilized Taklobo Shells in Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary (RIWS).

Please be informed that due to the regular monitoring conducted by the personnel of PAMO-RIWS, there is no further rampant collection of said species within the vicinity of Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

It is recommended that the Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) campaign be regularly conducted to raise the awareness of the community on the conservation and protection of wildlife within the Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary (RIWS).

For information and record.





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
National Highway, Bgy. Alfonso XIII, Quezon, Palawan
Contact No.: 0997-982- 3016
Email: cenroquezon@denr.gov.ph

May 31, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

FROM : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT : **MONTHLY REPORT OF KATALA FOUNDATION INC. (KFI)
RE: ALLEGED RAMPANT COLLECTION OF FOSSILIZED
TAKLOBO SHELLS IN RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE
SANCTUARY**

**DENR PENRO
PALAWAN RECORDS
RECEIVED**

BY: *[Signature]*
DATE: *06-06-2022* *224904*

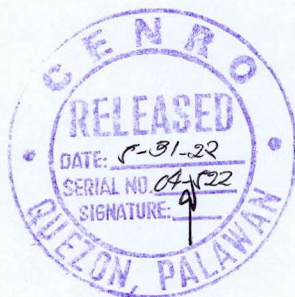
Respectfully forwarded is the memorandum dated May 24, 2022 of the Protected Area Superintendent of Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary (RIWS) re: above subject with attachment.

Please be informed that due to the regular monitoring conducted by the personnel of RIWS there is no more spotted incident regarding on the collection of Giant Clams (Taklobo) within the jurisdiction of the said protected area.

Further, this Office recommends continuous conduct of Information and Education Campaign to raise the awareness of the community on the conservation and protection of the Wildlife within the Rasa Island and Wildlife Sanctuary (RIWS).

For your information and record.

“For the CENRO:



[Signature]
ENGR. ROSITA F. CASTULO
Development Management Officer IV
Officer-In-Charge



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICE – RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
National Highway, Antipuluan, Narra, Palawan
Telephone No.: 048 - 716 - 1224
Email: rasaislandwildlifesanctuary@gmail.com

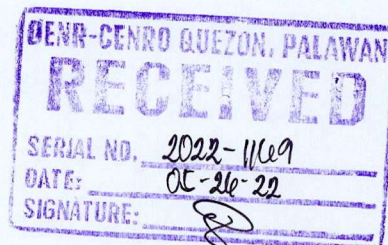
May 24, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Quezon, Palawan

FROM : The OIC, PASu

SUBJECT : **MONTHLY REPORT OF KATALA FOUNDATION
INC. (KFI) RE: ALLEGED RAMPANT
COLLECTION OF FOSSILIZED TAKLOBO
SHELLS IN RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**



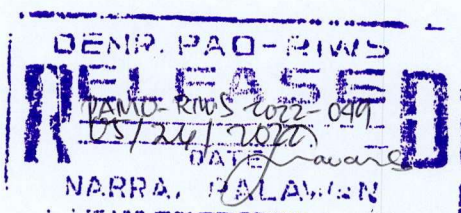
Forwarded herewith the report of APASu Jerry P. Bautista dated May 23, 2022 relative to the above subject hereof.

Please be informed that on May 20, 2022, this Office received email from Katala Foundation Inc. (KFI) re: Patrol and Monitoring report on Forest and Biodiversity in Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary covering the month of March-April, 2022. Anent to the report in No. VI. *Issues, constraints and Actions Taken*, it was stated that **Collection of fossilized Taklobo shells has been rampant even in other municipalities of Palawan.**

Based on the report of APSu Bautista the above subject issue is mostly the same as their previous report in January-February, 2022, wherein that matters had already acted by this Office dated March 22, 2021 and May 16, 2022.

Further informed that since March 21, 2021, no more spotted incidents regarding the collection of Giant Clams (Taklobo) shells within the jurisdiction of Protected Area-Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary. Attached hereto Memorandum dated May 16, 2022, March 22, 2021 with pertinent enclosures and KFI report covering the month of March-April, 2022.

For your information and further instruction.



MA. TERESA V. AYSON



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

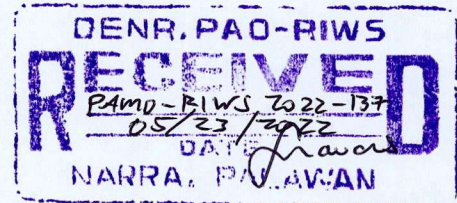
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICE – RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE
SANCTUARY**

National Highway, Antipuluan, Narra, Palawan
Telephone No.: (048) 716 1224
Email: rasaislandwildlifesanctuary@gmail.com

May 23, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The PASu, RIWS
FROM : APASu
SUBJECT : **KFI PATROLLING AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST
BIODIVERSITY MARCH 2022 SUMMARY**



Anent to Section IV ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTION TAKEN on the above subject report by the KFI, we noticed that issues on alleged collection of Fossilized Taklobo shells is a copy paste from previous report dated January to February 2022. The attempted collection of Fossilized Taklobo shells was on March 2021 which we monitored and prevented in coordination with our SDENROS, Maritime police, and BFAR (photocopy of report is hereto attached).

However, please be informed that there is no more incidents on collection of Taklobo shells within the Protected Area of RIWS after the apprehension made in March 2021.

For information and record.


JERRY P. BAUTISTA



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
MIMAROPA Region

Bgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

E-mail: penropalawan@denr.gov.ph

Telfax No. (048) 433-5638 / (048) 433-5638

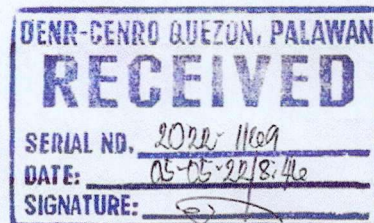
April 25, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer's
Roxas, Quezon and Puerto Princesa City

FROM : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

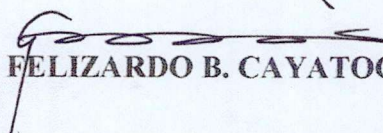
SUBJECT : **MONTHLY PATROL AND MONITORING REPORTS
ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY FROM PHILIPPINE
COCKATOO CONSERVATION PROGRAM (PCCP) -
(E-2022-79833, P-2022-80533, E-2022-81255, P-2022-83012
AND E-2022-84879)**

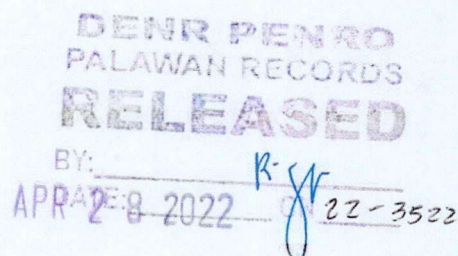


Referred is the memorandum from the Regional Executive Director dated April 21, 2022 regarding the above subject. Please take note of the stated/identified issues and concerns thus the instruction for us to be vigilant in the protection of our remaining forests in close coordination with the PCCP-Wildlife Wardens and concerned Barangay Officials and intensify IEC activities to prevent any forms of threats in the forest.

Coordination with partner agencies to address some issues as stated is also recommended and submit report on the action/s taken on the matter.

For information and immediate compliance.


FELIZARDO B. CAYATOC





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

MEMORANDUM

TO : THE PENR OFFICER
Palawan

FROM : THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT : MONTHLY PATROL AND MONITORING REPORTS ON FOREST
BIODIVERSITY FROM PHILIPPINE COCKATOO
CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT (PCCP) - (E-2022-
79833, P-2022-80533, E-2022-81255, P-2022-83012, AND E-2022-
84870)

DATE : APR 21 2022

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Memoranda dated February 21, 2022, March 01, and March 18, 2022 regarding the above subject.

Per evaluation of the submitted monitoring reports, there are identified issues and concerns, summarized as follows:

Month	Project Site	Observed issues and concerns
January 2022	Pandanán and Bugsuk Islands, Balabac, Palawan	• Illegal cutting of trees at the area of Tagbinwan-Siminnop and Bodis-Tagbinwan
	✓ Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary and its environs, Narra, Palawan	• Rampant collection of fossilized Taklobo shells
	Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF), Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	• Illegal cutting and encroachment in forestland • Hazard of forest fires is threatening due to the volume of fuel loads present in the forest floor
	Dumaran Island Critical Habitat, Dumaran, Palawan	• Encroachment in forestland
February 2022	✓ Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary and its environs, Narra, Palawan	• Rampant collection of fossilized Taklobo shells

Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF), Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal cutting of trees and shaving of rattans were observed in the area
Dumaran Island Critical Habitat, Dumaran, Palawan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amnesty in chainsaw registration is taken advantage by individuals to cut trees without permit from the DENR
Pandanán and Bugsuk Islands, Balabac, Palawan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaingin was observed within the primary coastal forest in Pandanan Island

In this regard, you are hereby directed to stay vigilant in the protection of our remaining forests in close coordination with the PCCP-Wildlife Wardens and concerned Barangay Officials. Intensify your IEC activities to prevent any forms of forest threats. Further, conduct investigation in coordination with the PCSD and BFAR as regard to the rampant collection of Taklobo shells located in Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary and determine the identity of the perpetrators and filing of complaint in court, if warranted. Submit report of your actions/s taken on the matter.

For and in the absence of the Regional Executive Director


VICENTE B. TUDDAO Jr., Ph.D., CESO IV

ED/MJV/04-18-2022



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICE – RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
National Highway, Antipuluan, Narra, Palawan
Telephone No.: 048 - 716 - 1224
Email: rasaislandwildlifesanctuary@gmail.com

May 16, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Quezon, Palawan

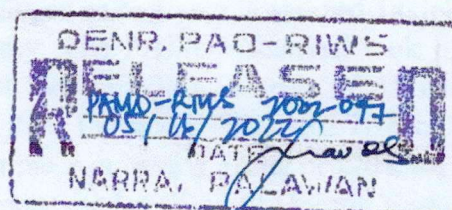
FROM : The Protected Area Superintendent
Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary

SUBJECT : **MONTHLY PATROL AND MONITORING REPORTS ON
FOREST BIODIVERSITY FROM PHILIPPINE COCKATOO
CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT (PCCP) – (E-2022
79883, P-2022-79883, P2022-80533, E-2022-81255, AND E-2022-
84870)**

Respectfully forwarded herewith the report re: document of the above-subject in compliance to the Memorandum order by the RED dated April 21, 2022.

For your information, record and reference.

MA. TERESA V. AYSON





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICE – RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE
SANCTUARY**

National Highway, Antipuluan, Narra, Palawan

Telephone No.: (048) 716 1224

Email: rasaislandwildlifesanctuary@gmail.com

May 10, 2022

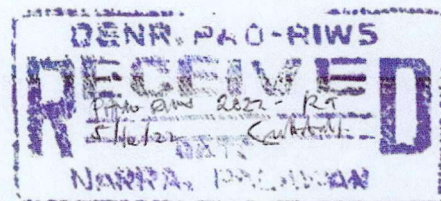
MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and
Natural Resources Officer
Quezon, Palawan

THRU : The PASu, RIWS

FROM : APASu

**SUBJECT : MONTHLY PATROL AND MONITORING REPORTS ON FOREST
BIODIVERSITY FROM PHILIPPINE COCKATOO CONSERVATION
PROGRAMPROJECT(PCCP)-(E-202279883, P 2022-79833, P-2022-80533,
E 2022-81255, P-202283012, AND E-2022-84870**



In reference to the Memorandum order by the RED dated April 21, 2022, pertaining to the report of the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program (PCCP) as indicated in the acknowledgement receipt of the memoranda dated February 21, 2022, March 01, and March 18, 2022, re: above subject.

Please be informed that on March 12, 2021, the PAMO office received an information of alleged collection of fossilized Taklobo shells along the shore of Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary. The PAMO personnel took immediate action on the same date in coordination with the SDENRO/ Warden, BFAR and Maritime Police officer resulting the apprehension of three (3) pieces Fossilized Tridacna shells with an approximate weight of 40 kilograms per piece or having a total of 120 kilograms. These apprehended products are now placed and deposited at CENRO-Quezon Narra station for safe keeping purposes. The attempt of Fossilized Tridacna shell collection was immediately prevented.

Collection of said fossilized Taklobo shells were tried once by some unidentified groups coming from other municipalities, but it was immediately detected, monitored, and prevented due to regular visitation, patrolling, and visibility of the law enforcement team from DENR, PAMO, BFAR, Maritime Police, and the LGU Bantay dagat. Hence, there is no further rampant collection of fossilized Taklobo shells within the vicinity of Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

For information and record.


JERRY P. BAUTISTA



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICE – RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**
National Highway, Antipuluan, Narra, Palawan
Contact No.: 0917-160-4920
Email: cenroquezonpal@gmail.com / rasaislandwildlifesanctuary@gmail.com

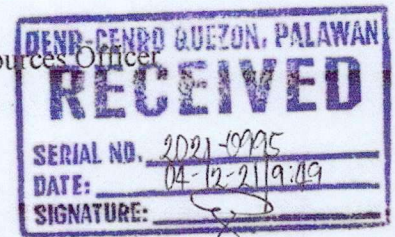
March 22, 2021

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer
Quezon, Palawan

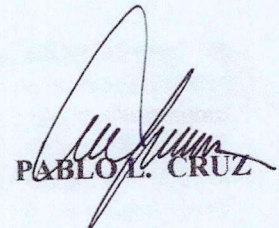
FROM : The Protected Area Superintendent
Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary

SUBJECT : **APPREHENDED MARINE (TRIDACNA SHELLS) PRODUCTS
AT RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**



Respectfully submitted the report of our PAMO personnel dated March 22, 2021 re: the above-noted subject. The above cited marine products are now deposited at CENRO QUEZON, Narra Station compound for safekeeping and proper disposition

For information record and further instruction


PABLO L. CRUZ



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICE – RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
National Highway, Antipuluan, Narra, Palawan
Contact No.: 0917-160-4920
Email: cenroquezonpal@gmail.com / rasaislandwildlifesanctuary@gmail.com

March 22, 2021

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer
Quezon, Palawan

THRU : The PASu, RIWS

FROM : **Jerry P. Bautista**
John Lerry S. Suza
Jeter E. Manliguez

SUBJECT : **APPREHENDED MARINE (TRIDACNA SHELLS) PRODUCTS**
AT RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Please be informed that on March 12, 2021 a verbal report received by PASu Pablo Cruz that accordingly, on March 11, 2021 around 8pm, Deputized Officer/Warden of RIWS, Edwin Batac intercepted three (3) men in the act of collecting Tridacna shells along the shore of RIWS but not identified due to dark night situation and they are wearing bonnet, they rush to escaped and left the shells. The boat they used bearing named "JOSUA".


FR Jerry Bautista proceeded in the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Narra Station office to meet the RIWS wardens for their testimony re: the incident. However, continuous surveillance was recommended due to unidentified offender while the marine by-products was temporarily kept in a safe place. Continuous surveillance were conducted in coordination with the joint team of Maritime Police PCpl Silbin Jasid, Reynaldo Azucena of BFAR, SDENROs/RIWS Warden Edwin Batac and Mario Batac and DENR personnel FR Jerry Bautista FR Joy Tindic, FPOs Audrey Dagaraga, Jeter Manliguez and John Lerry Suza.

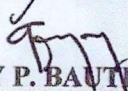
That on March 18, 2021 we issued apprehension receipt and we hauled the products in CENRO station at GP Cruz, Poblacion, Narra, Palawan for issuance of seizure Order and for safekeeping purposes. Notice to the Public shall be posted in public places in this municipality.

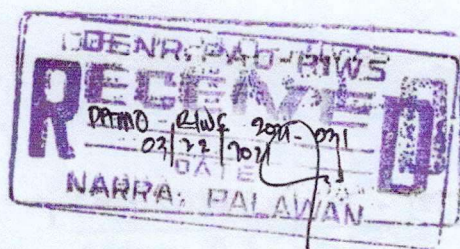
Herewith attached are copy of Apprehension receipt and photo copies of apprehended Tridacna shells.

For information, record and further instructions.


JOHN LERRY S. SUZA


JETER E. MANLIGUEZ


JERRY P. BAUTISTA





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
National Highway, Bgy. Alfonso XIII, Quezon, Palawan
Contact No.: 0917-160-4920
Email: cenroquezon@denr.gov.ph

DENR-IV-28 SN _____

APPREHENSION RECEIPT

Pursuant to the provision of P.D. 705, as amended by Executive Order No. 277, the following forest products and/or machinery, machinery, equipment, tools and conveyances, to wit:

QUANTITY	UNIT	ARTICLES AND DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED VALUE
3	Pcs.	Giant Clamper shell (Taidacan shells) P 5,000.00 / Kg. (120.00 kgs)	P 600,000.00

IS/ARE HEREBY DECLARED UNDER APPREHENSION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

Violation - RA 9147, R.A. 7266 AS AMENDED BY RA 11038

The same having been apprehended, subject forest products and/or machinery, equipment, tools and conveyance should be kept and protected from defacement in any manner, destruction or loss and should not be altered or removed until otherwise ordered by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or his duly authorized representative or any Court of Justice of the Philippines.

Done this 18 day of March, 2021 at Rasa Island, Palawan.

APPREHENDING OFFICER

1. ERWIN A. BASTAC MAHIB B. BASTAC JOHN P. BASTAC JOHN E. BASTAC
Address: BIWS - Warden BIWS, Warden DEPN - PAMO WWS DEPN - PAM WWS
3. JOY A. TAVIC ANDREA E. VACANT 4. PCP. SILBING JASID
Address: DEPN - CENRO DEPN - CENRO DEPN - CENRO DEPN - CENRO

CLAIMANT/REPRESENTATIVE/DRIVER

1. _____ Address: _____
2. _____ Address: _____

WITNESSES

1. REYNALDO C. AZUCENA Address: DA - BFA, Marikina
2. _____ Address: _____

Remarks:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This is to certify that the following item/s listed above has been received by the undersigned for custody/safekeeping.

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 18, 2021
PLACE OF CUSTODY: NALMA SUB-STATION, NALMA, PALAWAN

JOHN P. PAZ
Custodian



SEIZURE RECEIPT
No. _____

The following apprehended Items with Apprehension Receipt No. _____ are administrative seizure pursuant to Section 3 of DAO 97-32.

A. FOREST PRODUCTS / Marine Products :

Species	No. of Pieces	Dimension	Volume (cu.m.) (Kgs.)	Estimated Value
Giant Clamps Shell (Tridacna)	3		(120.00 Kgs)	
TOTAL	3		120.00 Kgs	

Note:/Address of onsite offenders and nature of participation :

NAME	ADDRESS	NATURE OF PARTICIPATION.
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

B. CONVEYANCE :

Name of Registered Owner: _____
Address: _____
Type of Vehicle: _____
Model: _____
Engine/Motor Serial No. : _____
Chassis Serial No.: _____
Certification of Registration No.: _____
Estimated Fair Market Value : _____

C. EQUIPMENT/TOOL AND OTHER IMPLEMENTS (Briefly describe the physical appearance and condition of each items and estimated fair market value).

Note : _____
(State reasons or offense committed)

The items were apprehended by the DENR, S DENRO'S Maritime Police, at BRAN at Rasa Island on March 18, 2021

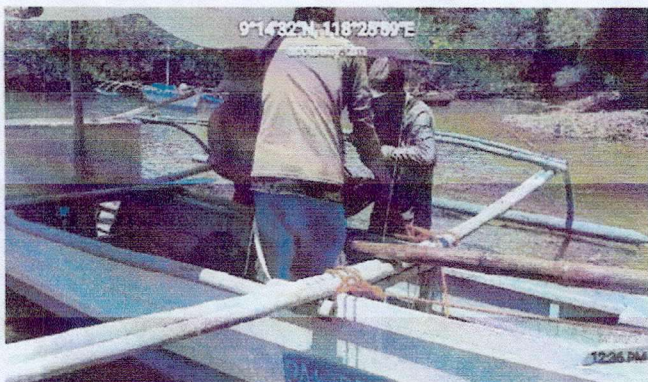
Said apprehended pieces of lumber are declared abandoned items, or with claimant, as the case maybe.

The same items are under the custody of DENR - CENRO ANDRON NARA station at G.P. Cruz, Poblacion, Nara, Palawan Further, these apprehended items are now deposited at CENRO-station, Nara, Palawan

That the undersigned hereby acknowledge that the above listed item(s) are now in ADMINISTRATIVE SEIZURE and that I, as authorized Seizing Officer, assume the possession and control for the custodial legis., pending the conduct of administrative confiscation proceedings for their disposition.

Therefore issue this Seizure Receipt No. _____ this _____
At _____.

PABLO L. CRUZ
Seizing Officer
IN CHARGE NARA, station



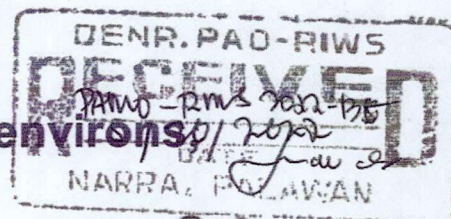
Geotagged photo showing the apprehended Tridacna shells at Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

JERRY P. BAUTISTA
 Forest Ranger/ Asst. PASu

KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

March 2022 SUMMARY

Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary and its environment
Narra, Palawan



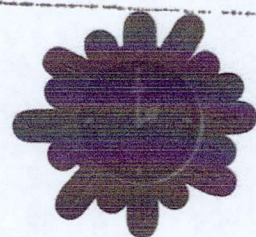
20

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



180

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot
ng patrolya



45

Kabuuang oras ng
patrolya



0

Bilang ng illegal na
kailangang aksyunan



0

Bilang ng mga issues na
nai-report sa PAMO



0

Bilang ng naaresto



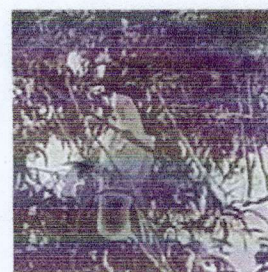
148

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



37

Bilang ng ibang uri ng
ibon na nakita



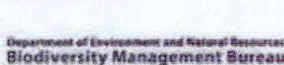
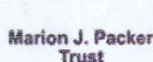
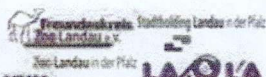
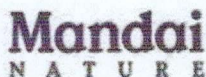
38

Pinakamataas na bilang
ng Katala sa kinakainan



13

Uri ng halamang namumunga



KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY

April 2022 SUMMARY

Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary and its environs, Narra, Palawan



28

Bilang ng nagawang
patrolya



0

Bilang ng illegal na
kailangang aksyunan



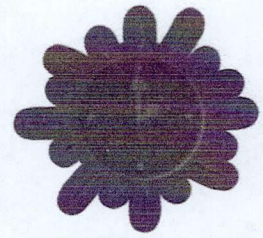
109

Kabuuang kilometrong naabot
ng patrolya



0

Bilang ng mga issues na
nai-report sa PAMO



60

Kabuuang oras ng
patrolya



0

Bilang ng naaresto



151

Pinakamataas na bilang sa
tulugan ng Katala



35

Bilang ng ibang uri ng
ibon na nakita



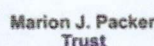
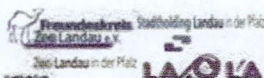
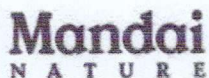
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Pinakamataas na bilang
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Biodiversity Management Bureau





KFI PATROL AND MONITORING REPORT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY RASA ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

MARCH-APRIL 2022

Prepared by:

Anna Rose Agullo, Mark Qunit, Peter Widmann and Indira D. L. Widmann

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

Rasa is a small coral island of 8.34 km² land area situated in the Sulu Sea, just offshore of the Municipality of Narra, Palawan, Philippines (Fig. 1). About 1.75 km² are covered with coastal forest, mangrove (5.60 km²), cultivated areas (predominantly coconut; 0.39 km²), 0.60 km² are barren or sparsely vegetated sand and coral outcrops. In February 2006, the island became a Wildlife Sanctuary through Presidential Proclamation 1000 and since a Protected Area Management Board manages the Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary (RIWS). In 2008, RIWS was chosen as Top 13 Bird Watching Sites in the Philippines by the Department of Tourism.

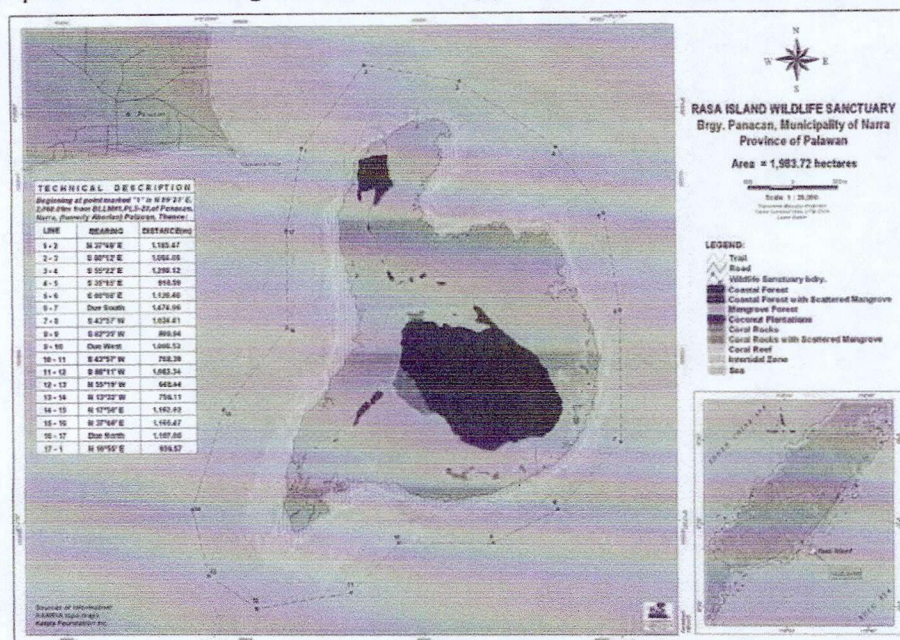


Figure 1. Landuse map of Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Narra, Palawan, Philippines

The island is the pilot site of the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program since 1998. Due to intensive poaching, only 23-25 Philippine cockatoos were left on the island then. Key component of this project site is the warden scheme which involves ex-poachers as wildlife wardens whose main task is to patrol and protect the wildlife in particular the Philippine Cockatoo during and outside its breeding season. This scheme has proven to be efficient and lead to the dramatic recovery of the Philippine Cockatoo population to nearly 400 individuals as of to date. This makes RIWS the most important population of the species in the wild!

1. Maintain the species diversity and function of ecosystems and species within Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary.
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. To stabilize number of Philippine Cockatoo breeding pairs on Rasa Island and vicinity by 2024 (Baseline: average breeding pairs from 2019 to 2021: 33.0).
2. Conduct weekly patrol and permanent presence of wildlife wardens with daily reports during breeding season per year.
3. Conduct at least 12 school/community visits (with at least 20 percentage point increase in KAPP survey results for individual interventions) and one festival annually.
4. Rehabilitate at least one hectare per year through reforestation or enrichment planting within cockatoo foraging area.
5. Monitor and reduce threats in the area by 50% from 2022-2024; if any.

Deputised 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/ArcGIS. Patrols are coordinated with the concerned barangay and protected area office wherever it applies.

The patrol and monitoring team members are our wildlife wardens and mainland volunteers: **REYNALDO ALBELAR, LORETO ALISTO, BERNITO BASIO, EDWIN BATAK, MARIO BATAK, LUCITO DANGIS.** Veronica

Marcelo, Danilo Villaruz, Monico Beleg and Antonio Marcelo. Three teams of wardens covered **180** and **109kms** for **March** and **April** respectively of nest checking and wildlife monitoring around Rasa. Total of precipitation in March 2022: **263mm** on Rasa, **405mm** on mainland while in April 2022: **151mm** on Rasa. **241.5mm** on mainland.

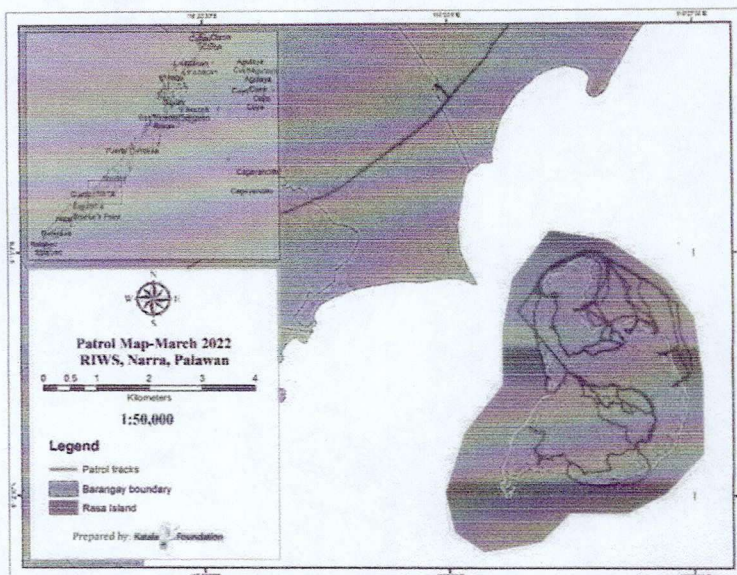


Figure 2. Patrol tracks in red marks in March 2022

In March, all active nests were visited including two potential nest trees. On Mar. 7, Reynaldo and Lucito noted one cockatoo on nest hole of dead Gindaon then went outside. The Gatasan exhibits more signs of occupation. The first cockatoo eggs on Rasa were recorded this month. As of March 26, we recorded 55 eggs from 30 occupied nest trees. Seven camera traps were randomly installed around Rasa. Data loggers were also checked regularly. On Mar. 9, Lucito saw cockatoo feathers on ground around a nest. He suspected it was attacked and dragged somewhere by an osprey.



Figure 3. Mario and Bernito monitor cockatoo nest trees on Rasa (top photos). Mark and Mario check on status of eggs and hatchlings through wifi-enabled endoscope (lower left) while Bernito puts the cable wire with lens inside the nest hole (lower right) ©KFI

In April, from two-day interval of nest checking, the teams shift to one-day interval especially now that rain is getting more frequent. Mites were observed on hatchlings on one nest on southeast Rasa. Though infestation was not severe, we treated it with cock shampoo immediately. The hatchlings with treated mites were checked the day after and exhibited no mites and was good health status. Mites were collected as well as the substrates of nest trees with hatchlings for further studies. Due to deep nest chambers on Rasa, an endoscope is used for detection of eggs and hatchlings.

III. PATROL OBSERVATIONS

A. WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

First cockatoo eggs on Rasa were noted in Mar. 7. The highest count of cockatoo around nest trees particularly on coastal forest were recorded with six individuals. Sub-adult cockatoos were also observed with adult ones. 75 nest trees and Gatasan nest tree were visited in April 2022.

Out of these, 36 nest trees were occupied (incl Gatasan). Gatasan nest tree in coastal area is occupied with one egg on Apr. 1 though it failed. The egg was retrieved on Apr. 29. As of April 29, we recorded a total of 66 eggs on Rasa where 30 of which hatched. 17 eggs and 2 hatchlings were unsuccessful this month. 19 remaining eggs are still being monitored. Eggs are still expected on next checking schedules. Seven individuals were the highest count around nest trees during our scheduled visits and monitoring.

148 and 151 individuals were the highest counts at the traditional roost site for March and April respectively. In both months cockatoos were observed sleeping in the vicinity of the nest trees. On the other hand, no roosting cockatoos was recorded at Borbon during synchronized counting. Veronica counted **38 individuals** at Borbon on Mar. 17, flying to mainland at 6:25-8:40pm to forage. In one of our time counts in Mar. 3, six individuals were observed crossing to mainland from 6-10:00am. In the same month last year, less cockatoos were also observed crossing to forage. On Mar. 11, Peter saw five individuals crossing Malatgao bridge at 4:28pm. Veronica counted **91 individuals** flying back to Rasa from 7:22-8:35am on Apr. 29. Likewise, the highest count at Marcelo area was also noted in the same date with 24ind. Cockatoos were observed foraging on Katala lot beside Marcelo's residence and around her stations. During our timed count on Apr. 26, 55ind crossed from Rasa to mainland (due Borbon and Antipuluan) from 5:59-8:40am while 38ind flew back to Rasa from 7:10-8:30am. Less cockatoos were still observed crossing in the afternoon. On Apr. 18, 3ind could not go back to Rasa due to strong wind at 6:15pm. It stayed on coconut trees at Borbon instead. Earliest cockatoos' flight to mainland was at 5:51am while the latest flight to Rasa was 6:15pm recorded at Borbon station

This month, rain was more frequent than in previous months. 19inds were the highest count foraging on Marcelo area in Mar. 17 while no individual visited or foraged in the same area last year. This month, abundant food was observed on Rasa. Earliest cockatoos' flight to mainland was at 6:20am while the latest flight to Rasa was 6:22pm recorded at Borbon station.



Figure 4. Cockatoos forage on Malunggay at Malinao, Narra on Mar. 4 (left) and Mar. 23 (right)

Beside the Philippine Cockatoo other recorded species this month were Nicobar Pigeon, Blue-headed Racquet-tail (BHRT), Red-headed Flameback, Tabon Scrubfowl, Palawan Flowerpecker/ Tit, Green Imperial-Pigeon, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Egret sp., Pied Imperial-Pigeon, Common Koel, Great-billed Heron, Common Tern, Western Osprey, Dollarbird, Blue-Paradise Flycatcher/ Black-naped Monarch, Zebra Dove, Asian Glossy Starling, White-collared Kingfisher, Greater Coucal, Sunbird sp., Large-tailed Night-jar, Rufous-tailed Tailor-bird, Pipit, Ashy Drongo, Emerald Dove, Reef Egret, Oriental Dwarf-kingfisher, Whimbrel, Rufous Night-heron, Stork-billed Kingfisher, White-vented Shama, Fruit-dove sp., Changeable Hawk-eagle, Mantanani Scops-owl, and Spotted Wood-owl. Monitor Lizard is frequently encountered on Rasa. Blue-naped Parrot was seen and once seen with four BHRT feeding on Mala-kalamansi near camp then flew due mangroves. On Mar. 24, Lucito observed it perching on nest tree then

flew to Asinan area. Bernito heard Spotted Wood-owl squabbling near camp site. Mantanani Scops-owl was noted on Mar. 24 at Mario's area. On Mar. 8, 30ind of Pied Imperial-pigeon flew from Asinan to coastal forest. Bernito noted Large-tailed Night-jar with two eggs at R. Deig area on Mar. 27 (Fig. 5). Lucito noted two small bats came out from nest tree near camp on Mar. 25 while climbing on nest. On Apr. 3, Sikopsikop, a predator of smaller birds perched on branch of nest 54 then flew due nest 26. Reynaldo saw snake near campsite on Apr. 17

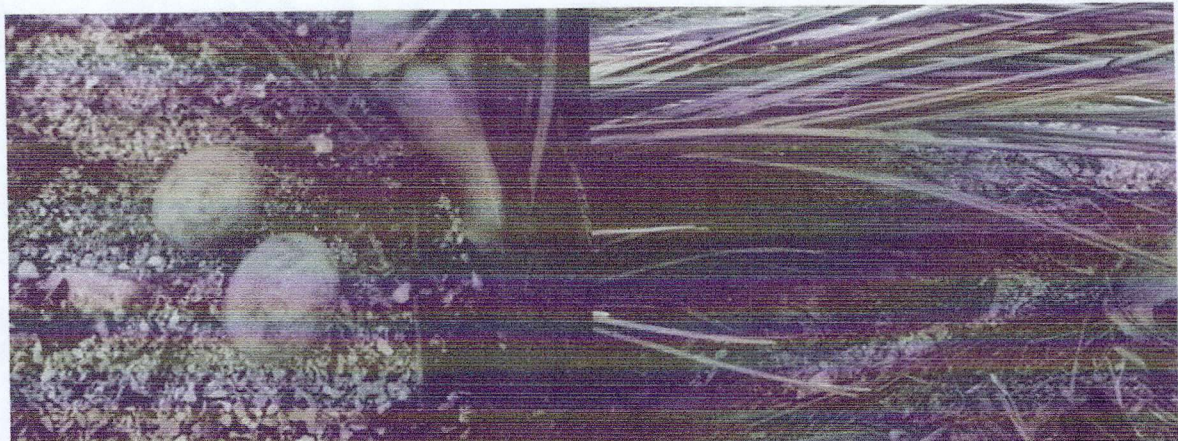


Figure 5. Two eggs of Large-tailed Night-jar noted Mar. 27 at 8:46am (left) and it was with parent at 10:27am (right)

Vegetation assessment

Greener vegetation is observed in March and April 2022 both on boundary and inner coastal forest of Rasa. Leaf litter is less dense. Fruiting trees and vines were Taluto, Ginlalid, Tulangpagi, Mala-kalamansi, Balete, Kasuy-kasoy, Gatasan, Balindadagat, Binunga, Dapdap, Bagalunga, Aring, Piagaw, *Rhizophora* sp. and other mangrove species. Likewise, flowering trees and vines were Taluto, Bogo, Dapdap, Aring, Pagatpat, *Rhizophora* sp. and other mangrove species.

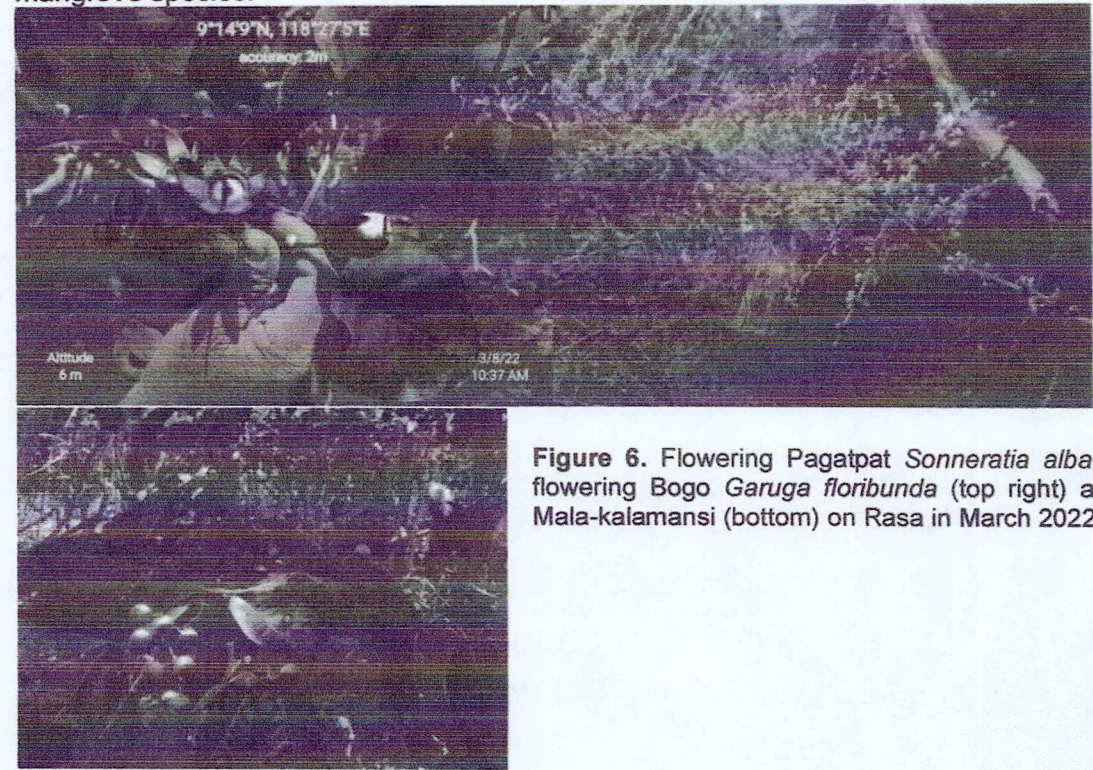


Figure 6. Flowering Pagatpat *Sonneratia alba* (top left), flowering Bogo *Garuga floribunda* (top right) and fruiting Mala-kalamansi (bottom) on Rasa in March 2022

B. THREAT OBSERVATION

No adverse human activities observed on Rasa during monitoring.

On Mar. 21, we visited the reported suspected dead cockatoo at Panacan and verified that it was not cockatoo based on its small (undersized even for cockatoo down feathers), white feathers (Fig. 4). We interviewed the community in barangay including Danny Villaruz's wife.

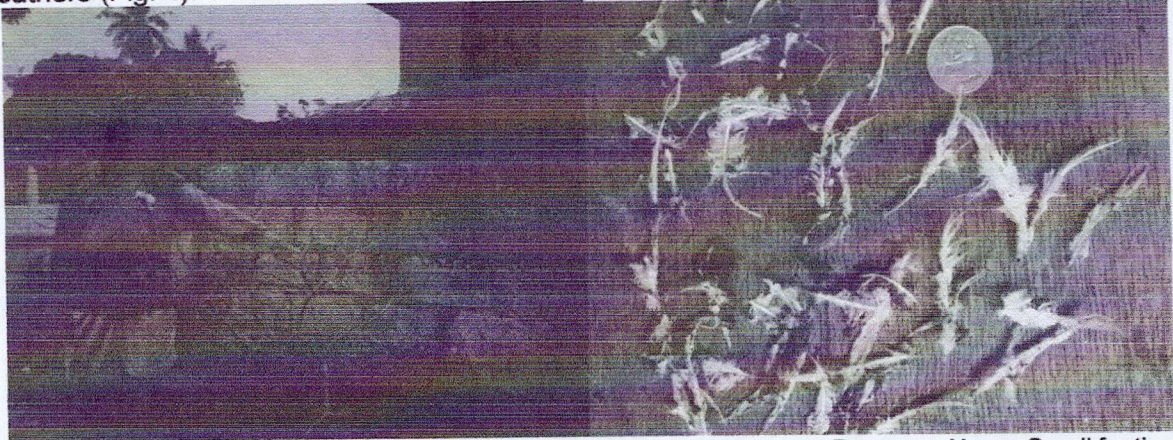


Figure 7. Visit on alleged dead cockatoo and verification on witnesses at Panacan, Narra; Small feathers are observed around the area ©KFI

III. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Prior informed consents for the project Nature-based solutions for Tuas Watershed (Taritien River) in Narra, Palawan were secured after conducting presentations to Barangay councils of Poblacion, Antipuluan, Taritien and Elvita (Fig. 9). Mr. Jonas Arcilla, a geologist and professor from Palawan State University (PSU)-PPC together with MENRO Mr. Neil Varcas conducted ocular visit at Bgy. Taritien and Elvita on Apr. 9 as part of the said project.

Figure 8. Ocular visit with Mr. Arcilla and MENRO on Bgy. Taritien and Elvita at the foothills of mountain (left); Estuary at Bgy. Taritien was also visited (right) @KFI



Camera based-trapping in lowland forests within these target barangays was conducted in March to April. Focus group discussion and meetings with farmers were also organized (Fig. 9). We talked with a total of 72 farmers in nine sessions. Some of the participants were members of local vegetable growers and corn cluster groups, irrigators' association and employee of National Irrigation Administration (NIA). The meetings aimed to determine the essential support for the farmers to work both for conservation and for their increased income.

The challenges they encounter are high cost of farm inputs (e.g., expensive fertilizer, pesticides, insecticide, herbicides and diesel, labor cost, seed variety and quality, poor soil quality, post-

harvest facility, farm-to-market road, transportation and rice processing cost), low price of palay, lack of capital, pathogens, irrigation system, lack of government support, feeling of farming is not prioritized, flood, birds (e.g., maya and pigeons), and weather. Majority of the farmers in barangay Antipuluan, Poblacion, Elvita and Taritien engage in inorganic farming for rice, vegetable and corn production. Majority of the participants sell unprocessed inorganic rice (palay) to traders. Traders then process and package rice while giving only the net amount to farmers. The farmers' necessary trainings and supports are determined eventually after identifying benefits and barriers of organic farming with the participants. Majority of the participants consider organic farming though they perceive that they lack knowledge and experience.



Figure 9. Presentation on Nature-based solutions for Tuas watershed to Barangay Taritien council (left); FGD on perception of farmers on organic farming with Narra Organic Farmers' Association (right)

Monitoring on coconut plantations on Rasa. On Mar. 4, three persons gathered 300kgs of copra at Deig area for one week. On Mar. 6, six persons collected 1200kgs copra on Rasa in one week. On Mar. 10, three persons gathered 200kgs copra on Rasa in two days. On Mar. 26, two persons collected 350kgs of copra at Baltazar area for 10 days. On Apr. 1, two persons gathered 70kgs of copra at Deig area for three days while on Apr. 2 Edwin's brother was at his area gathering copra.

A microscope (right photo) was donated to the PCCP-KIEBC through UPLB College of Veterinary Medicine under Dr. Emilia Lastica to support its objectives especially on management of captive animals in Katala Institute at Bgy. Antipuluan, Narra.



Wardens work on extending roof of campsite (Fig. 10) and additional wood platform for herbarium specimen.

KFI wildlife wardens, volunteers and staff were trained on savings and creation of Katala savings club on Mar. 11 by Mr. Art Faburada, RARE personnel (Fig. 10).



Figure 10. Edwin paints GI for camp roof extension (left); Mr. Faburada discusses the benefits on joining the savings club (right)

A fiberglass boat of KFI with special funds from ZGAP is fabricated with the assistance of Mr. Antonio Gammad, Municipal Agriculturist of Narra (Fig. 11). This first fiberglass boat created by Narranons will help in promoting eco-friendly boat through conversion from wood-made hull to fiberglass hull of boats in the municipality. Lucito assisted on fabrication of outrigger of fiberglass boat.



Figure 11. Mold for fabrication of fiberglass boat (left); Mr. Gammad shows how floaters (styrofoam inside pet bottles) are piled in the boat that helps on achieving buoyancy of the boat (right)

In March, International Women's Day was commemorated through PCCP Fb page. Active women in wildlife conservation in Narra, Palawan who include fisherfolks, KFI-PCCP volunteers and staff expressed their valuable contributions in the subject.

Visitors

On Mar. 31, Mr. George Tapan, a well-known photographer visited cockatoo roosting site to take footage for a coffee-table book that includes details on cockatoos and Rasa Island. On Apr. 1, a team headed by Ms. Jazz Ong interviewed Dr. Sabine Schoppe to help promote awareness on Philippine Freshwater Turtle species and other projects under KFI. On Apr. 8, Lutz Geissler and company visited Katala Institute (KI) at Bgy. Antipuluan, Narra.

IV. ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

Owners of lobster traps at Borbon, Panacan must be informed to not encroach inside Rasa boundary. Prescriptions for each zonation must be finalized and disseminated by PAO and with other PAMB members to encourage more active role in protection. Case filed against establishment of fish corral on Rasa must progress. Collection of fossilized Taklobo shells has been rampant even in other municipalities of Palawan hence intensive monitoring around Rasa at night is also encouraged.

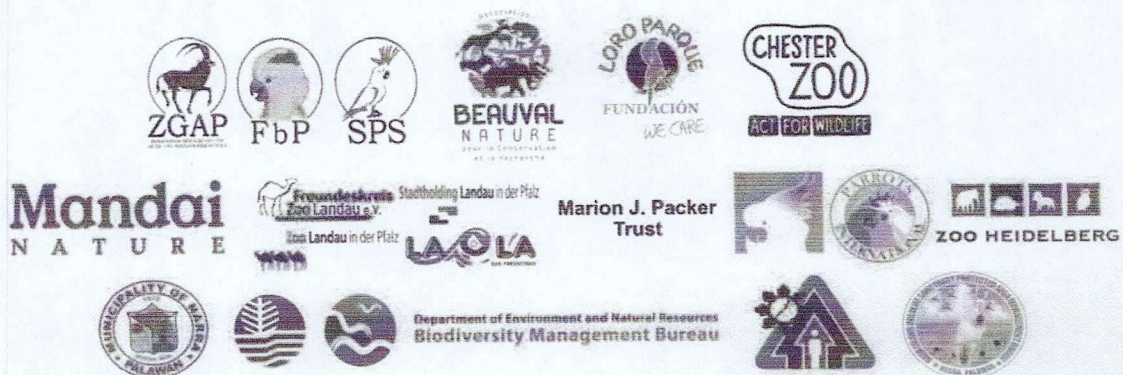
V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The PCCP acknowledges the key players on the ground: our wildlife wardens and mainland volunteers: REYNALDO ALBELAR, LORETO ALISTO, BERNITO BASIO, EDWIN BATA, MARIO BATA, LUCITO DANGIS, Veronica Marcelo, Danilo Villaruz, Monico Beleg and Antonio Marcelo.

Thank you very much to the LGU-Narra through Mayor Danao and staff, Vice Mayor Lumba, and the municipal council, department heads, barangay officials, and everyone in the LGU for their unrelenting support and appropriation per year for our wardens and volunteers. Also, we thank the Narra community for pursuing the cause of cockatoo conservation in Narra. We also thank the PAMO through former PASu Pablo Cruz for his leadership and for PASu Ma. Teresa V. Ayson for her kind attention.

We are grateful to KFI family and board members for their help, assistance and sharing expertise and ideas.

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