



Conservation of the Philippine Cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia* and its habitat in Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF) Palawan, Philippines
Technical Progress Report
January-June 2017



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TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT

PROJECT TITLE: Conservation of the Philippine Cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia* and its habitats in Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF), Palawan, Philippines

PROJECT COOPERATORS:

Bureau of Corrections (BuCor)
Department of Justice (DOJ)
Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF)
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS)
Western Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (WESCOM)
Local Government of Bgy. Iwahig
Local Government of Bgy. Montible
Local Government of Bgy. Sta. Lucia
Local Government of Bgy. Inagawan
Local Government of Bgy. Matahimik-Bucana
Local Government of Bgy. Luzviminda
Local Government of Bgy. Banca-Bancao
Concerned agencies and authorities

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A total of 44 nest trees (NT) were recorded for this year and 19 were confirmed active. Of the 19 active NT, nine were occupied by Philippine Cockatoos, five by Blue-naped Parrot, four by Hill Mynah and one by Palawan Scops Owl.
- This year's breeding season yielded 17 hatchlings of which 10 were banded and successfully fledged and three were ringed mid July this year. Three fledglings however were not banded because the nest tree is dead and cannot be climbed while one was lost to probably poaching.
- Identified nest tree near KM 32 in Bgy. Montible was already abandoned by the Philippine Cockatoo for this year's breeding season due to continued under brushing activity by claimants. The underbrushed area already reached the nest tree and beyond approximately a hectare in size. Fifteen coconut seedlings already planted and three new houses made of local materials were already built. This issue of illegal occupation and clearing was brought up already to the Superintendent of IPPF in the presence of CENRO Emer Garraez and colleagues during KFI's visit to the new IPPF Superintendent on April 18, 2017.
- A maximum of 36 individuals were sighted within Puerto Princesa City from August 2016 to January 2017 foraging in Taluto *Pterocymbium tinctorium*. Since February of this year when most of the breeding cockatoos started their nest preparation, no foraging groups was observed in the city proper.
- A number of Cockatoos (minimum of 1 and maximum of 22) are still usually observed going to, resting and foraging on Rain Tree *Samanea saman*, Kapok *Ceiba pentandra* and Senna *Senna sp.* which are important food-providing tree species in Iwahig.
- We recorded 20 cockatoos roosting at the traditional roost site on April to May 2017.
- A threat-based monitoring was conducted in IPPF since February 2017 with the aid of a technology-based system known as Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System. A total of 102.71km were covered for four (4) months patrol. Several threats were encountered and recorded during patrol. Several incidences of cutting of high-valued trees ranging from 500 to 2000 board-feet within Sta. Lucia Forest (Sibakan Area in km 25 along Montible-Napsan Road and just a few kilometers from Sta. Lucia Sub-Prison to Bgy. Luzviminda) were observed. An active logging trail was also documented during patrol. Moreover, an estimated area covering 1-2 hectares of early to advance secondary forest with tree species of up to 55cm DBH and up to 30m height was cleared for kaingin.
- A PRIDE campaign is proposed to be implemented to strengthen conservation education within Puerto Princesa City. Concept Model and Theory of Change (TOC) for IPPF was already formulated. A total of 8 barangays are covered for the proposed campaign. Pre-project survey will commence in the next reporting period targeting 99% confidence level at 5% confidence interval.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue the data gathering for the establishment of Critical Habitat.
- Continue the monitoring on foraging, roosting and breeding cockatoos.
- Continue Lawin Patrol.
- Conservation education campaigns to target barangay and schools.
- Second Rapid Biodiversity Assessment in Iwahig area.
- Continue nest monitoring activities
- Small livelihood options for key stakeholders in particular IPPF inmates and identified poachers in the area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We also thank the UNDP SGP-5 for the funding support of the employment of Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System, capacity building efforts with IPPF and other activities for this reporting period. We thank too the support of the PCCP sponsors Loro Parque Fundacion (LPF), ZooParc de Beauval and Conservation Association (Association Beauval Conservation et Recherche) through Christoph Kiessling, President LPF, Rafael Zamora, Director LPF and Eric Ruivo respectively.

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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!

ACRONYMS

CE	Conservation Education
CENRO	Community Environment and Natural Resources Office(r)
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
IBCP	IPPF Biodiversity Conservation Program
IPPF	Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
KFI	Katala Foundation, Inc.
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NT	Nest Tree
OIC	Officer-in-Charge
PC	Philippine Cockatoo
PCCP	Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program
PCSD(S)	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (Staff)
PENRO	Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
PWRCC	Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center
RTD	Round table discussion
TOC	Theory of Change
ZGAP	Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten- und Populationsschutz

INTRODUCTION

The Philippine Cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia*

The Philippine Cockatoo or Red-vented Cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia* is restricted to lowland forest areas and mangroves in the Philippines. Formerly, it could be found all over the archipelago (Dickinson *et al.* 1991). Only in the last decades a rapid decline set in, which brought the species to the brink of extinction (e.g. Boussekey 2000a; Lambert 1994). The reasons for the decline of the populations are (e.g.; Collar *et al* 1999; Lambert 1994; Widmann *et al.* 2001):

- Habitat destruction, particularly in respect of nesting and food providing trees.
- Persecution as crop pest.
- Poaching for pet trade.
- Potential diseases caused by the introduction of captive birds in the range of wild populations.
- Tropical storms and typhoons

Habitat destruction and poaching are the most important factors threatening the Philippine Cockatoo. Monitoring of breeding, roosting and foraging of cockatoo populations on a site base are activities KFI implemented since its initiation. Due to IPPF's unique management as open prison, access to the area is restricted, so that activities were focused on conservation education for inmates and networking with the prison administration. These have been ongoing on low levels for many years and have resulted in a reduction of cockatoo poaching by inmates.

For this year's breeding season warden scheme with the aid of a technology-based monitoring system was employed. This initiative aims to establish a community-based patrol system in IPPF with the cooperation of partner barangays or surrounding communities, IPPF and concerned government agencies.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: Monthly monitoring of population and foraging activities of Philippine Cockatoos in Iwahig Penal Colony and adjacent areas.
- Objective 2: Implementation of conservation education campaigns for inmates, prison personnel and other key stakeholders in Iwahig Penal Colony
- Objective 3: Networking with stakeholders for identification of Critical Habitat and sustainable development of ecotourism.

DESCRIPTION OF IWAHIG PRISON AND PENAL FARM

Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (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.



Figure 1. Sites covering Sulu Sea coastal plains in Palawan, Philippines (Base map: Google Earth)

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 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*, 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*.

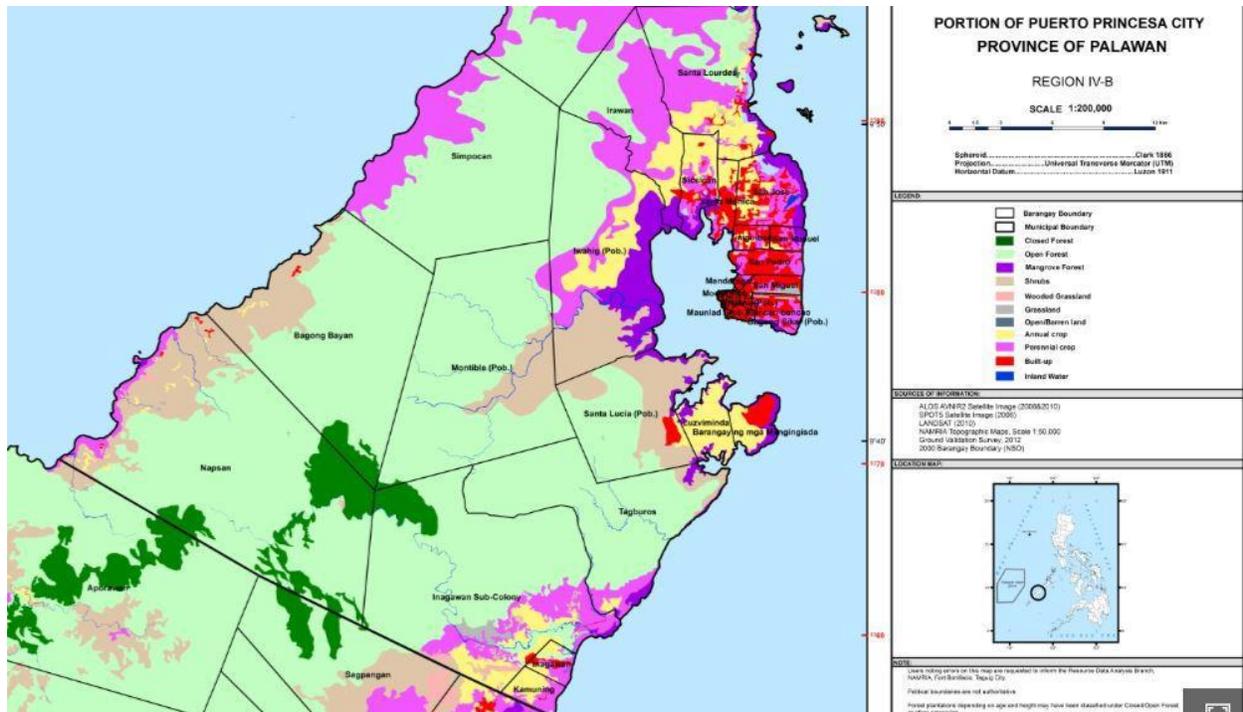


Figure 2. Land use of southern Puerto Princesa, including IPPF according to NAMRIA. Large areas were classified as open forest (bright green signature); this is not in line with observations on site, where large areas of closed forests were recorded particularly in portions of Iwahig, Tagburos (“Zigzag”) and Montible (Source: NAMRIA)

METHODS

Cockatoo Monitoring:

Cockatoos are monitored through counts on roost sites and of foraging flocks (Widmann et al., 2006). Since increasingly more than one roost is occupied in all project sites, simultaneous counts are attempted. Distance sampling (Buckland et al., 1993) on Rasa did not yet yield replicable results; population size was underestimated by almost 50%, possibly due to the very dense vegetation. The method will however be refined and applied whenever roost counts do not yield consistent results. Mapping of breeding pairs in nest trees is another important method for monitoring reproductive status of a sub-population (Widmann et al., 2006). However, these activities are hampered by the restricted access to IPPF, but nevertheless has yielded first results. Since cockatoos commonly survive for a long time beyond their reproductive stage, all other quantitative methods may indicate stable populations in the medium-term, whereas in reality the population may already be functionally extinct.

Monitoring of breeding performance include counting of eggs, weighing and banding of nestlings, as well as checking of nutritional and health status in regular intervals during breeding season. If need arises in years with extreme weather condition, methods of 'intensive management' (Jones, 2004) are applied: nestlings are treated against parasites or given supplementary food. In cases where this is not possible, birds are taken out of the nest, hand-raised and later released.

Camera trapping was supplemented in nest monitoring scheme to monitor the progress of this year's breeding season. Likewise, it was hoped that poaching attempts could also be documented through the footages from the camera trap considering that IPPF is one of the sources of illegally traded Philippine cockatoos within Puerto Princesa City. Camera traps were installed directly opposite to the nest cavity of each identified nest tree. Camera trap monitoring was done twice a month to replace batteries and memory cards.

Threats Monitoring:

A threat-focused monitoring is being conducted in IPPF utilizing the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System. This system integrates monitoring of biodiversity, forest conditions, and threats, environmental law enforcement and other interventions to address threats and monitoring ecosystem's response to management interventions. This uses a smartphone application through cybertracker in data gathering and SMART software for data management and analysis. This initiative in monitoring aims to improve reporting and evidence-based results. A quarterly monitoring (7 days per quarter) was set for IPPF.

Foraging behaviour:

Feeding observations are timed, according to manipulation of food items. Herbarium samples of food plants are collected and made available for identification to experts from Western Philippines University and from the National Herbarium of the Philippines. If possible, seeds are collected for propagation in the project nurseries.

Conservation Education:

These activities follow the methods outlined for Pride-Campaigns developed by RARE (Price and Mayorga, 2007). KFI was the first organisation to implement a Pride-Campaign in the Philippines, with the Philippine Cockatoo as flagship species. Methods of social marketing are applied. Changes in knowledge, attitude and self-reported behaviour (and therefore effects of education campaigns) are quantifiable through pre- and post-campaign surveys. Depending on the occasion, tools include focus group discussions, school and community visits, puppet theatres, mascot appearances, festivals, songs, contests, print media and many more. In cooperation with Rare the long-term effects of conservation campaigns had been assessed for the first time in the Dumarán project site and results showed that increases/changes in levels of awareness and behaviour wears off after more than two years of intensive conduct of education activities. Hence, conservation education must be pursued regularly even in not similar extent as in the first conduct of the pride campaign.

Modules are prepared for this year's intensive CE campaigns that shall include topics on the Philippine and Palawan Biodiversity, Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program (PCCP), Wildlife Resources and Conservation and Protection Act (RA 9147) and Climate Change to mention a few. Priority schools and communities targeted are those within the foraging, nesting, roosting and/or fly path of the Philippine Cockatoos.

Surveys on other biodiversity:

For all sites selective surveys on associated flora and fauna have been conducted and methods and results were described (Widmann et al., 2009). Additional records are routinely taken during patrols or other field work in the sites.

RESULTS AND PROGRESS

Objective 1. Monthly monitoring of population and foraging activities of Philippine Cockatoos in Iwahig Penal Colony and adjacent areas

Nest Monitoring and Characterization

Intensive nest monitoring for identified nest trees and potential nest trees was done for this breeding season. Exploration to unexplored areas within IPPF to look for more nest trees and revisiting of the recorded nest trees last 2015 was made with the established wildlife wardens in the area. A total of 44 nest trees were recorded for this year and 19 were confirmed active. Of the 19 active NT, 9 were occupied by Philippine Cockatoos, 5 by Blue-naped Parrot, 4 by Hill Mynah and 1 by Palawan Scoops Owl. Seventeen (17) cockatoo eggs were recorded of which 10 were banded and had successfully fledged and three were ringed mid of July this year. All banded hatchlings were sampled for PBF test and DNA sexing. Three fledglings however were not banded because the nest tree is dead and cannot be climbed. The said fledglings were observed by the monitoring team flying with the parent cockatoos in the close proximity. On the other hand, one nestling was presumably poached from the same tree which was allegedly poached last year. We also lost a camera trap from this nesting area. Hence, poaching remains an existing threat in the area which needs to be addressed.



Figure 3. Nest checking by wildlife warden (left) and banding with KFI team. ©KFI

Table 1. Banding data for Breeding Season 2017, Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

NESTING TREE NO. & NAME	NO. of HATCHLINGS BANDED	RING NO. / COLOR	DATE OF RINGING	MEASUREMENT (cm)			WEIGHT (grams)	EYE COLOR	REMARKS
				Wing length [cm]	Tarsus length [cm]	Tail length [mm]			
IW-25-15	3	DENR136/ Black	28/05/2017	16.5	2.4	7.2	349	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
		DENR137/ Black	28/05/2017	13.5	2.2	6.7	330	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
		DENR138/ Black	28/05/2017	16.1	4.2	4.2	350	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
IW-28-17	2	DENR 142/ Gold	13/07/2017	12	2.2	5.1	320	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
		DENR 143/ Gold	13/07/2017	12	1.8	5.2	340	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
IW-37-17	2	DENR 140/ Silver	10/06/2017	13.5	1.8	5.2	340	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
		DENR 141/ Silver	10/06/2017	12.5	1.6	4	385	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
IW-38-17	3	DENR131/ Red	09/05/2017	13.4	1.8	6	280	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge

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		DENR 132/ Red	09/05/2017	12.5	1.5	4.8	260	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
		DENR 133/ Red	09/05/2017	12.4	2.3	3	230	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
IW-40-17	1	DENR 144/ Pink	14/07/2017	12.9	1.9	5.1	360	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
IW-44-17	2	DENR 134/ Blue	23/05/2017	16.5	1.4	9	303	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge
		DENR 135/ Blue	23/05/2017	16.4	1.3	8	301	Brown	Full crop of granular seeds, no mites, healthy, open feather, open eyes. Ready to fledge

Meanwhile, the identified nest tree near KM 32 in Bgy. Montible was already abandoned by the Philippine Cockatoo for this year's breeding season due to continued under brushing activity by claimants. The underbrushed area already reached the nest tree and beyond covering approximately a hectare. Fifteen coconut seedlings were already planted and three new houses made of local materials were already built. This issue of illegal occupation and clearing was brought up to the Superintendent of IPPF in the presence of CENRO Emer Garraez and colleagues during KFI's visit to the new IPPF Superintendent on April 18, 2017. During that meeting, two major concerns were discussed for immediate action:

- Installation of signages that area is under the BUCOR or IPPF property. In May 2017 monitoring by the team, a signage put up by alleged claimant (Atong Alfanta) was documented (Fig. 4). The area of clearing has extended already beyond the known nest tree; hence nest occupants abandoned the nest hole for breeding.
- Uprooting of planted coconut seedlings and replacing them with forest trees appropriate for the lowland forest. This action has yet to be decided by the DENR. The monitoring team counted 15 coconut seedlings planted and is waiting for the appropriate action from the DENR. It was agreed that these coconut seedlings be transferred within IPPF grounds where it can be monitored. DENR-CENRO committed that these concerns be discussed with NCIP.



Figure 4. Coconut seedlings planted (left) and signage posted (right) in KM 32 Bgy. Montible, PPC. ©KFI

Foraging

Systematic data collection of foraging cockatoos in Iwahig Central, Montible and foraging sites within the City—Bgy. Bancao-Bancao and WESCOM was continuously monitored. Largest flock size of foraging cockatoos observed in the monitoring sites from January 2016 to June 2017 is showed in Figure 5. An increase of foraging cockatoos was observed outside breeding season and it descended as soon as this year's breeding season started. A maximum of 36 individuals were sighted within Puerto Princesa City from August 2016 to January 2017. Since February of this year when most of the breeding cockatoos started their nest preparation, no foraging groups was observed in the city proper. The Katala as locally known were recorded foraging in Taluto *Pterocymbium tinctorium* situated within the last stands of coastal forests in the city. Prompted by the confirmation of the cockatoos' flight path and the urgency to ensure their protection against persecution e.g. two incidents of confiscation in 2016, the Katala Foundation will intensify its conservation campaign through employment of PRIDE campaign strategy in surrounding communities and elementary and secondary schools. Likewise, possible

networking with private individuals for the advocacy of creating more green spaces will be explored this year. The Katala Foundation encourages more green spaces within the city amidst all development plans not only for the unique biodiversity of the island province but also for its constituents to enjoy the benefits of green spaces and corridors.

Up to 22 individuals (minimum of 1 and maximum of 22) are still usually observed going to, resting and foraging on Rain Tree *Samanea saman*, Kapok *Ceiba pentandra* and Senna *Senna sp.* which are important food-providing tree species within Iwahig premises. Based on the initial data collected for the phenology study in Iwahig, it was observed that Senna *Senna sp.* was flowering and fruiting since May last year which attracts several foraging cockatoos. A long-term data collection on phenology and breeding success is needed for robust analysis and generalization.

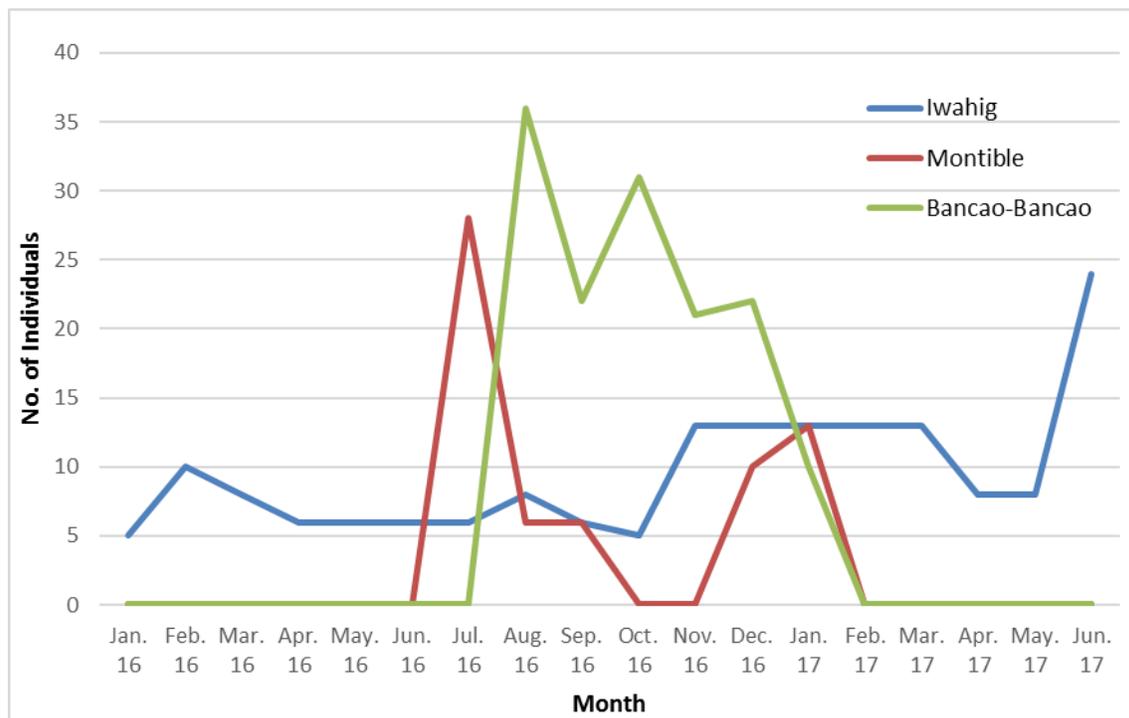


Figure 5: Largest flock sizes of foraging Philippine cockatoos observed from January 2016 to June 2017 in Iwahig, Bancao-Bancao and Montible.

Roosting

We received information that the cockatoos were sighted back at the traditional roost site in mid of July 2016 after it was abandoned for some time. Monitoring of the said roosting site commenced shortly after the reported sighting. Highest count was 28 individuals. Possibly due to its proximity to the trail and highway, the observation lasted only three weeks in July. Roosting population continuously declining since 3rd week of the said month. Based on the data gathered, there were 2 months when no cockatoos were observed. Continuous monitoring is done.

Threats Monitoring

A threat-based monitoring was conducted in IPPF since February 2017 with the aid of a technology-based system known as Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System. This uses a smartphone application through cybertracker in data gathering and SMART software for data management and analysis. This initiative in monitoring aims to improve reporting and evidence-based results. A total of 102.71km were covered in four months patrol (Fig. 6).

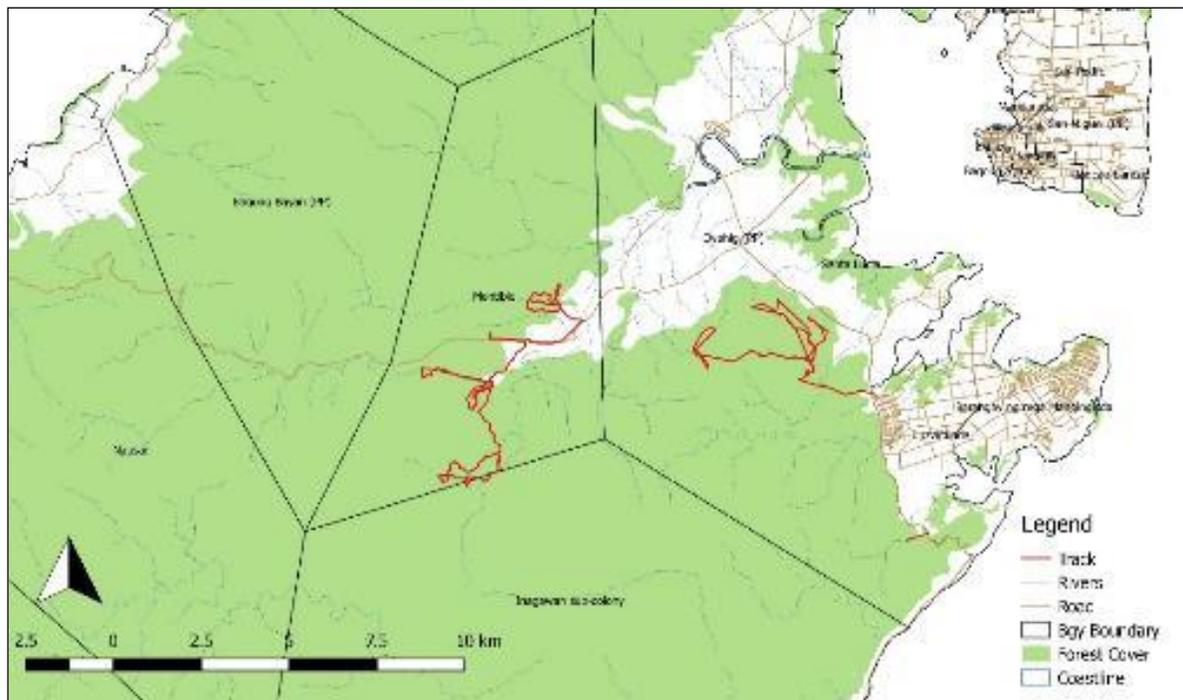


Figure 6. IPPF map showing the tracks of the patrollers in red marks.

Many threats were encountered and recorded during patrol (Fig. 7). Several incidences of cutting of high-valued trees ranging from 500 to 2000 board-feet within Sta. Lucia Forest (Sibakan Area in Km 25 along Montible-Napsan Road and just a few kilometers from Sta. Lucia Sub-Prison to Bgy. Luzviminda) were observed. Most common trees cut were Ipil Tree *Intsia bijuga* and others could not be identified. Cut trees were already sliced in different sizes. Stumps of cut trees were also noted.

An active logging trail was also documented during patrol (Fig. 8). As per personal communication with one informant from Sta. Lucia, the area is good site for timber poaching because the forest is accessible from Bgy. Luzviminda. Moreover, a few kilometers away from the southbound highway, a newly burnt kaingin area was recorded (Fig. 9). The area cleared within the penal reservation was estimated to cover 1-2 hectares of early to advance secondary forest with tree species of up to 55cm DBH and up to 30m height. What was interesting is the lookout station on top of the last tree standing. This was apparently built by the kaingineros. As of the reporting period, no crops planted yet in the said area.

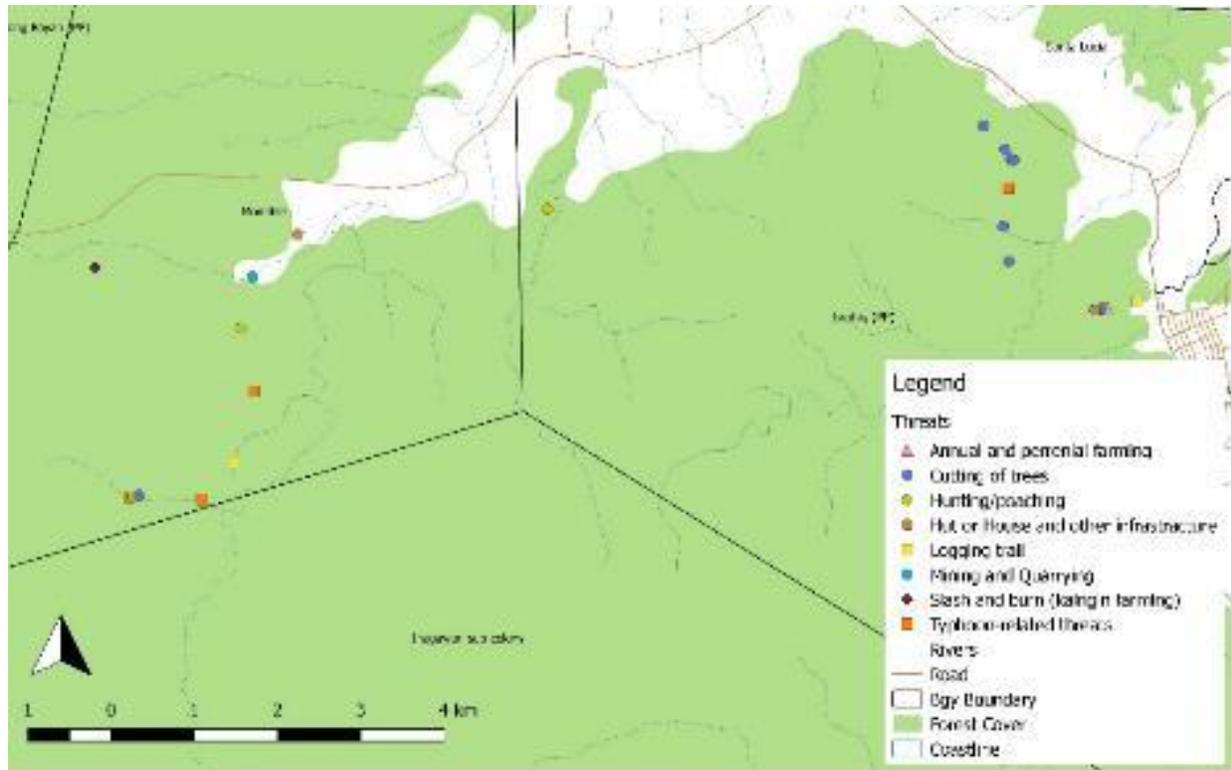


Figure 7. Spatial distribution of threats observed.



Figure 8. Cutting of trees (left) and active logging trail (right) observed in Sta. Lucia Forest. ©KFI



Figure 9. Kaingin or slash-and-burn farming (Upper photo) and lookout station in one standing tree (lower photo) observed in Sta. Lucia Forest. ©KFI

All issues observed were reported to concerned agencies and a personal visit to IPPF to present this report was done. Likewise, full Lawin reports were already disseminated to concerned agencies and stakeholders. Please see attached report in Annex 1.

We presented all results and updates of the project before the Western Command officials and representatives during its Command Conference in June 8, 2017 (Fig. 10).

Wildlife Monitoring

Apart from the target cavity-nesting bird species monitored in the vast areas, we also monitor the ground dwellers through the camera traps installed. We have gotten good footages of Palawan peacock pheasant, Palawan bearded pig, macaques, Palawan porcupine, palm civets, megapodes and Northern Palawan tree squirrel (Fig. 11).

Figure 10. PCCP IPPF BCP Team with the Western Command Personnel during the Command Conference. ©KFI





Figure 11. Palm Civet caught by the camera trap installed on the ground at Malabo Forest, IPPF. ©KFI

Objective 2: Implementation of conservation education campaigns for inmates, prison personnel and other key stakeholders in Iwahig Prison and Penal Colony

Influencing and motivating communities to change their attitudes and behaviors toward supporting conservation and making them believe that this change is for their own benefit is deemed essential to reducing the threats impacting protected areas in the future (Rare Campaigning for Conservation Training Textbook). Hence, we started consultations with stakeholders to finalise concept model and formulate our Theory of Change (TOC) for the IPPF Pride campaign. The pre-survey questionnaire is on process. A total of eight barangays are covered for the proposed CE campaigns. We intend to survey using 99% confidence level at 5% confidence interval. Once the pre-work activity which includes planning process and stakeholders' consultation will be done, pre-survey to target respondents will commence.

Meanwhile, Mary, Program Development Officer along with Anna Rose Agullo, Education Coordinator of PCCP attended the 10-day in-service intensive training on Campaigning for Conservation (C4C) in April. This is run by the RARE (NGO) and designed to help people working with local communities to use social marketing strategies to build supportive constituencies for conservation. They were trained among 25 participants in Palawan on the theory and practical application of social marketing for behavior change. Short theoretical sessions are interspersed with lengthy practicums where we learn how to create compelling materials—billboards, posters, activity books, sermon sheets, puppet show and songs. Materials formulated were test with a group of community members through focus group

discussions. The intention is that their learnings will be applied in PCCP sites and implement mini campaigns.



Figure 12. Mary mentored by Kate, one of the trainers, on formulating the concept model for IPPF-BCP. ©KFI

Objective 3: Networking with stakeholders for Critical Habitat establishment and sustainable development of ecotourism

On March 21, 2016, the RTD scheduled for the first quarter of the year was conducted. It convened 37 representatives from four Sub-prisons of IPPF, DENR-CENRO, PENRO, PCSD and six partner barangays. Matter arising from the previous minutes were:

- **Lawin taskforce formation and organization and training of wildlife wardens.** The barangay captains and representatives were receptive of forging partnerships and keen in sharing their human resources to become active participants for the patrol and monitoring. Hon. Gumangan of LGU-Bancao-Bancao suggested that Katala Foundation should draft the MOA for the barangay to give their inputs as soon as possible. According Hon. Tepait of LGU-Luzviminda commented that on the question regarding validity of MOA that so long the project is being implemented and enforced in the barangay, they will continue to support irrespective of changes in personalities in the council.
- **Illegal occupation and further encroachment into forest areas.** A certification issued by the Punong Barangay are allegedly used as proof of ownership of certain claims within the IPPF boundaries. Since it is known that IPPF is a reservation nationally proclaimed being a prison and penal colony/farm and a timberland as classified by DENR, no certification must be given stating ownership or any claim within the area. In

support to this, barangay chairman must have a written certification from DENR as to status of land wished to be occupied or certified (whether A & D) prior to issuance of the barangay certification sought by the constituent/applicant. OIC PENRO Tactay reiterated that the only office/personnel who has the authority to issue a certification of the status of the land is CENRO. Even PENRO has no authority for certificate issuances and the barangay captains should know that.

During the RTD, initial report of the Lawin patrol was presented. The LAWIN first patrol clearly manifests the strong and urgent need for a more resolved and reliable law enforcement in the area. The patrol documented threats mainly encroachment to forest areas within the penal reservation and along the road network which are also forested. Illegal occupation and persistent clearing continue to threaten the habitat and species within. We need more concrete action from authorities especially DENR to protect and conserve remaining forest cover within the IPPF being the lead agency for natural resources protection. While we have trained BUCOR officials and community members to do the actual patrol and monitoring, it is hoped that their findings would also be complemented with immediate action. This way it will encourage more active participation from local partners and boost morale if law enforcement agencies actively react to pressing issues and challenges.



Figure 13. Ms. Indira D.L Widmann, Program Manager discussed the matters arising of the previous minutes (left); OIC PENRO Fernando Tactay gave suggestion re illegal settlers in IPPF (right). ©KFI

Other highlights

Special Deputy Environment and Natural Resources (SDENRO) Training

The warden scheme is a proven strategy that PCCP employs to combat poaching issues in its project site. Stakeholders were identified, and key factors considered for the warden scheme integration were those ex-poachers with traditional knowledge and skills and or those familiar to the site. While the key partners of the IPPF-BCP prioritizes the known local partners, it was deemed necessary to train also community partners for a more effective patrol and monitoring scheme in the future. The training for the Special Deputy Environment and Natural Resources (SDENRO) was then conceptualized based from the experiences of the KFI and upon consideration of the inputs from key partners. This training convened 35 identified key local community partners and potential wildlife wardens along with experts from partner agencies and organizations from Palawan to expose said participants to actual roles and responsibilities of a SDENRO, understand the pertinent laws governing biodiversity and environmental protection

among others. The participants from the local government units were represented by participants from Bgys. Banca-Bancao, Montible, Inagawan, and Iwahig while the government agencies were represented by Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) staff from four sub-prisons under the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (Inagawan-Sub, Montible, Iwahig Cental and Sta. Lucia). Among the participants, 24 (68.57%) were males and 11 (31.43%) were females. As expected there is challenge in assessing the sincerity of some identified stakeholders to become wildlife wardens. Since the IPPF is a penal colony and reservation, no permanent settlers are within the area of patrol and monitoring that holds the legal status for their occupation. Time is needed to assess performance of current wildlife wardens and to continue to look for more key community partners in particular the ones who have skills necessary for nest monitoring e.g. climbing skills, identification of nest trees etc. Meanwhile, nine wildlife warden applications were processed for deputation. This training was also funded through our partner UNDP-SGP.



Figure 14. Participants and speakers of the SDENDRO Training (left) and Legal Researcher George V. Saragena of PCSD discussed the legal framework for wildlife enforcement in Palawan (right). ©KFI

Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection Training

A 3-day training on Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System was conducted on February 22-24, 2017 with the technical assistance from B+WISER and DENR-FMB. This training was attended by 45 representatives from four Sub-Prisons, six partner barangays and staff from Katala Foundation. The participants were introduced to the technology-based monitoring system and how it works for a conservation initiative. The objectives of the activity were: Learn how to design a conservation area (forest protection area) that needs to be protected through regular, systematic patrolling and the formulation of measurable conservation targets; learn to design patrol sectors and patrol routes for IPPF; Learn to conduct actual patrols and recording of patrol data on forest condition, threats and wildlife using CyberTracker application; and, syncing of patrol data, introduction on performing queries and generation of reports in SMART software. The participants from four IPPF Sub-prisons and partner barangays focused on how to use the smartphone with the cybertracker application as data collectors or patrollers. While, the staff from Katala Foundation allocated a half-day for the basic of data management and analysis. The training was too short to cover and absorb all the necessary concepts for this system. Hence, another 3-day training for data management was conducted on May 3-5, 2017 with the technical assistance of Dr. Anthony Lynam from WCS Asia Programs Center for Global Conservation. A new configured model was formulated to cater to the concerns of Katala Foundation during this training. This training was also funded through our partner UNDP-SGP.

Participation to the SGP-5 National Conference

The 3-day First National Biodiversity Congress, which also coincides with the International Day for Biological Diversity served as a venue for sharing various lessons on conservation initiatives in both large territories and small communities. The Congress was held on May 22-24 at Manila Galleria, Ortigas Center, Pasig with the theme “*Partnerships in Biodiversity: Upwelling of Lessons, Sustaining Community Initiatives*”. This featured interactive plenary and breakout sessions on five thematic areas covering a wide array of topics related to biodiversity management. Katala Foundation through its Program Development Officer, Mary Chris Nierves presented the initial result of the application of the technology-based monitoring system. This monitoring system uses smartphone through cybertracker application for data collection and smart software for data analysis. Patrol using this system was a threat-focused monitoring.

PCCP: recipient of “Zootier des Jahres” campaign 2017

PCCP is beneficiary of the “Zootier des Jahres” (zoo animal of the year) campaign of German zoos which runs from April 2017 to March 2018. This year’s species group selected for the campaign are cockatoos. We are grateful for the unrelenting support and generosity of ZGAP, Germany.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue the data gathering for the establishment of Critical Habitat.
- Continue the monitoring on foraging, roosting and breeding cockatoos.
- Continue Lawin Patrol.
- Conservation education campaigns to target barangay and schools.
- Second Rapid Biodiversity Assessment in Iwahig area.
- Continue nest monitoring activities.
- Small livelihood options for key stakeholders in particular for IPPF inmates and identified poachers in the area.



Figure 15: Participants during workshop for patrol planning (upper); Participants practicing the Lawin application through cybertracker (down). ©KFI



Figure 16: KFI management and colleagues in an intensive training with Dr. Anthony Lynam of WCS to improve conservation model for patrol in KFI sites and learn the SMART Software. ©KFI

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